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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

With a new minimum wage hike taking effect this week, what impact do you think it will have on the CNMI economy in general?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Tornado Record

Another week, another rumbling train of tornadoes.

NATION...Page 14



Dam Threat

About 80,000 people were evacuated Tuesday from downstream of an unstable earthquake-created dam.

ASIA...Page 15



New Bond

It was the year's most-hyped literary event—the publication of a new James Bond novel.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Candaza, Sahagun give Hopwood 2 valedictorians. PAGE 2
Reyes offers own version of marine monument. PAGE 7

Special election eyed for Yumul, Crisostimo seats

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A special election may be needed to fill the seats that will be vacated by lawmakers running for the new delegate position.



Yumul



Crisostimo

At least two elected officials have thrown their hats into the delegate ring. Rep. Ray N. Yumul and Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo will have to resign once they have been certified as official candidates.

Under the Constitution, a special election must be held if there is a vacancy in the Legislature and

See SPECIAL on Page 4

PSS seeks to retire old buses by September

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Public School System's Pupil Transportation Division is crossing its fingers that it will get its new buses by September before the beginning of the new school year.

See PSS on Page 4

Obesity battle among kids may have peaked

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO

(AP)—The percentage of American children who are overweight or obese appears to have leveled off after a 25-year increase, according to new figures.

See OBESITY on Page 4

ON THE NET

- JAMA: <http://jama.ama-assn.org>
- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov>



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

'WHERE'S OUR MONEY?'

Hundreds of nonresident workers with unpaid administrative orders meet with CNMI Department of Labor officers and staff inside the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse yesterday morning. See related story on Page 4.

NAP needs \$5M more to meet rising food cost

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Nutrition Assistance

Program, which is currently operating on an \$8 million annual budget, would need over \$13 million this year to meet the rising cost of food in the CNMI.

DCCA acting secretary Melvin L.

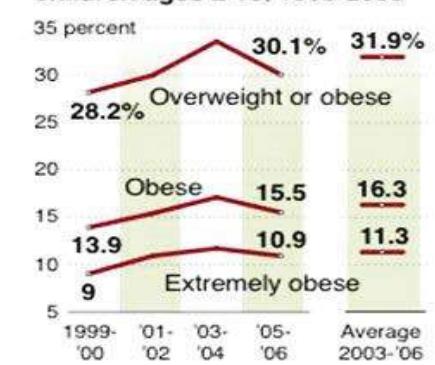
Faisao said the CNMI Commodity Price Index indicates a staggering 17 percent-plus increase in food costs, cramping the pockets of many families on the island.

See NAP on Page 4

Weighing in

A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found the percentage of U.S. children who are overweight or obese has not increased since 2004.

Weight prevalence among children ages 2-19, 1999-2006



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP

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Local

Candaza, Sahagun give Hopwood 2 valedictorians

Hopwood Junior High School overall top 10 and honorable mention award recipients gather for a photo on the stage shortly after receiving their certificates of recognition during the school's 2008 Promotion Ceremony yesterday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Some 465 8th grade students sing the national anthem during the Hopwood Junior High School's 2007 Promotion Ceremony yesterday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie.delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School made academic history yesterday with its very first two valedictorians, Joy Aira Candaza and Ageline Sahagun.

Both were also valedictorians during their elementary years. Candaza was the top student for Dandan Elementary School and Sahagun headed her graduating class at Garapan Elementary School.

Edu Mari Banaag was honored with the Salutatorian award and was also conferred the Commissioner of Education Academic Excellence Award.

Candaza, 15, wants to be an accountant in the future. Sahagun, 14, wants to take up Business Management.

"There's more scholars this year, we ended up having a tie for valedictorian. I have goose bumps," said Board of Education chairwoman Lucia Blanco Maratita when she announced the valedictorian.

In her speech, Sahagun said: "I have made many mistakes but that didn't stop me, because I learned from them, and it made me a better person. I have many dreams, some succeeded, others did not. But our graduation theme quote, 'If you can imagine it, you can achieve it, if you can dream it, you can become it.'

Candaza, on the other hand, was profuse with her thanks. "This is very memorable day where we can look forward to the next big phase of our lives: high school. I want to thank my friends and schoolmates for showing their kindness. And my parents, I love you both!"

Candaza's parents, Josephine and Arnel, were very happy and excited with the success of their daughter. "We can't express our happiness. Even our family in the Philippines are very proud of her," said Arnel.

"We really didn't expect this. There are a lot of students and parents here today, and we're very proud that our daughter is top 1. She is very kind, hard working, every night she did her homework. She joined the Mathcounts," he added.

Candaza's father is a cook, and her mother is a waitress. Both work in a Japanese restaurant in Garapan called Len Len.

Sahagun's parents, Yolanda and Robensio, were equally proud of their daughter. "We are glad that it is her second time to be awarded as the valedictorian. She is the best in Math and Science," said Yolanda.

Yolanda works as a sales representative, while Robensio is a construction worker.

The two honor students will be going to Marianas High



JOY AIRA CANDAZA
Valedictorian



AGELINE SAHAGUN
Valedictorian



EDU MARI BANAAG
Salutatorian

School next school year. The Leadership Award was given to Deveney Dela Cruz. The top 10 awardees from highest to lowest order are Joy Aira Candaza, Ageline Sahagun, Edu Mari Banaag, Lalaine Guiao, 1st honorable Salvi Dioma Villanueva, Genevieve Alexa Gottwald; 2nd honorable mention Tiannah Dela Cruz Diaz, Grace Enriquez, Rachel Renee Cabrera, Lyrette Maei Lacsina, Kimberly Vitug, Mark Christopher Echaure, and Deveney Dela Cruz.

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Roque, Francisco, Jetnil top WSR promotion



**CHRISTINE MAEBELLE
ROQUE**
Commissioner's Award



NEIL FRANCISCO
Principal's Award



**SUZANNE DELEON
GUERRERO JETNIL**
Kingfisher Award



William S. Reyes Elementary School overall top 10 students gather on the stage during the school's Promotional Ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Wednesday morning, JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
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JUNIOR REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School recognized Christine Maebelle Roque as its top student during the promotional ceremony for 6th grade students at the Multi Purpose yesterday at 10am.

Roque bested 93 other graduates to claim the Commissioner's Award. Neil Francisco earned the Principal's Award.

Suzanne Deleon Guerrero Jetnil,

who was also recognized as the Top 1 student in the Top 10 rankings, got the Kingfisher Award, while Anthony Dela Cruz received the Peace Builder Award.

From highest to lowest order, the top 10 were Suzanne Jetnil, Jane Nicole Cotin, Christine Maebelle Roque, Yeu Jin Kim, Neil Francisco, Vanessa Rome Bartolo, Igneisha Dela Cruz, Kenneth V. Domingo, Michael Yap, and Dermang Ngiralmuut.

Suzanne's father, John Deleon Guerrero Jetnil, said: "I am

extremely proud of her achievements. I would tell her to reach high, and she would give it 110 percent and that's all I want. I am a single parent, my mom and my dad has helped me raise her and support her to get to this point."

"I am very proud of her because she had been doing a lot of hard work to get to this point. She is very active in school activities and I really support her once it comes to school functions," said her grandmother, Susanna.

66 graduate from OES in farewell ceremony

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
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JUNIOR REPORTER

Oleai Elementary School held its 6th grade Farewell Ceremony last Tuesday at the Multi Purpose Center at 6pm.

Lourdes Lailani Seman was declared the Valedictorian, while Ericka Shaira Giron Serrano took the Salutatorian honors.

"This year was the most challenging year. I worked so hard to earn this position to make my family and friends happy. I also wanted to prove to myself what hard work can lead to," said Seman.

Serrano's message was on a somber note: "Moving from grade to grade, I realized that life is a journey that should be taken good care of because you may never know when life will be cut short."

Subject awards were given to Samantha Marquez, Lourdes Seman and Ericka Shaira Giron Serrano for Best in Language Arts.

Seman Lourdes, Jayna Lizama and Ericka Shaira Giron Serrano were awarded Best in Math.

Jacqueline Maglonzo, Ericka Shaira Giron Serrano, and Ericka Shaira Giron Serrano got Best in Science and Social Studies awards.

Perfect Attendance went to Ruby Belingon, Desiree Oliverio, Karl Roque, Lourdes Seman, Magdiel Corpuz, Leonard Dantic, Lisascheeyong, Iginoef, Mark Abrihan, Linson Manahan, Eugene Pak, Ericka Serrano, and Matthew Tenorio.

Citizenship Awards went to Karl Roque Franklin Warakai, Lourdes Seman, Leilighbwe Raisiang, Jayna Lizama, Sa-



**LOURDES LAILANI
SEMAN**
Valedictorian



**ERICKA SHAIRA GIRON
SERRANO**
Salutatorian



Oleai Elementary School 6th grade students take center stage during their Farewell Ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Tuesday night.

Award.

Leilani Rabauliman was awarded the best female athlete of the year, while Franklin Warakai was the male athlete of the year.

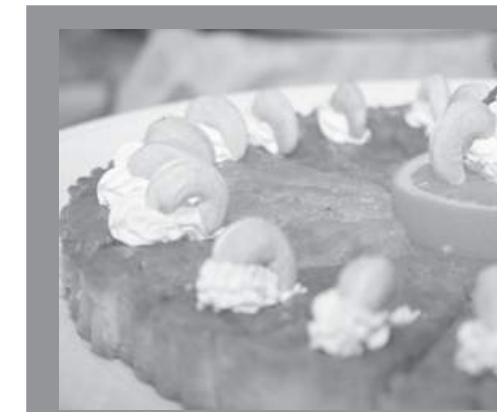
Kenisha Mario was the only one to receive the Leadership

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William S. Reyes Elementary School graduates gather inside the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe for their school's Promotional Ceremony Wednesday morning, JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



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Hundreds of alien workers meet with Labor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of alien workers who claimed they are owed unpaid wages and damages by previous employers showed up at the Sugar King Park's Roundhouse where Labor personnel informed them to file small claims in the Superior Court.

The workers, all of different nationalities, started gathering at the Roundhouse as early as 8am. Labor announced earlier that they are going to entertain the workers from 9am to 11am, but because of the huge number of claimants, the meeting was extended until the afternoon.

Workers carrying Labor administrative orders were made to fall in lines. Many workers whose names were in the Labor's announcement in the newspaper appeared. But

many workers whose names were not in the newspaper also showed up.

Labor Enforcement Supervisor Jeffrey Camacho told Saipan Tribune that they were there to assist the workers and give them the small claim packets on how they can proceed to court and collect their administrative orders.

"We are also providing them the name of the bonding companies and the bond numbers," Camacho said.

Camacho said there are individuals who showed up that are not listed in the newspaper that was printed out last Monday.

"We are also assisting the ones on the list by giving them these small claim packets," he said.

"Earlier we estimated we have a list from the Ombudsman's office for around close to 800. So we will be here the whole day to

assist them and register the last individual to come in today," the supervisor said.

Camacho said it was federal ombudsman's office that provided Labor with the names of the workers.

"We are trying to assist them to collect through some bonding companies," he said.

He said some of the workers were asking how much is the fee that they have to pay in the small claims.

"If there is \$500 or less, there is a court fee of \$20. As the claim goes higher or goes up to \$500 to \$2,000 I believe it is \$30," Camacho said.

He said some of the workers who came informed them that they already have lawyers that complained either at the district court or the Superior Court.

"They saw their names in the newspaper so they came here. We're telling them you check

your attorney," he said.

Camacho said the process at the Roundhouse went smoothly because they had interpreters.

Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto was earlier seen at the Roundhouse.

Some workers told Saipan Tribune that they went there just to observe because their names were published in the newspaper.

One worker said he did not get the small claims packet because he trusts the federal ombudsman more.

"I've been here for 19 years now. My administrative order was issued 12 years ago but until now I haven't gotten any amount," the worker said.

Benedetto earlier reported that he collected over 800 administrative orders from workers, representing a total amount of \$6.1 million in unpaid wages and damages.

SPECIAL

From Page 1

more than one half of the term remains.

Both Crisostimo and Yumul just won fresh terms in the 2007 midterm election. Yumul has more than one year left of his two-year term, and Crisostimo has more than three years remaining.

"It looks like we're going to have a special election—for Senator Crisostimo's position, at least," said Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

Crisostimo is believed to be running as an independent candidate. Yumul will face off with Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio—and any other member of the NMI Republican Party—in the GOP primary, tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2008.

Tenorio, who is considered an "incumbent," may not need to resign.

Unlike elected officials, government employees running for office are required to resign or take leave.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio C. Sablan, who has

also declared his candidacy for delegate, went on leave starting Friday, May 23, 2008. He will resign once he has used up his leave credits.

Another candidate, Judge Juan T. Lizama, stepped down from the bench on Saturday, May 24, 2008.

The election for the delegate position will take place on Nov. 4, 2008.

The official period for submitting candidacy papers is from July 7 to August 6, 2008.

The Northern Marianas congressional delegate seat was included in a measure that

requires the U.S. federal government to take over labor and immigration controls in the island group.

Under the new law, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Similar to House members and other delegates, the commonwealth's delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

cent increase in food cost while in 2008 alone, there's a strong indication of more than 7 percent increase to date. By adding both, there is roughly more than 19 percent increase in food cost for the past 10 years."

He said the last time NAP ever got an increase in federal funding assistance was in 1997. Since then NAP has been providing benefits at \$8.22 million and operating at \$1.2 million as the budget was capped by the U.S. Office of Management & Budget.

Grim news

The CPI for food has increased faster than in two decades, and

it is especially grim news for people who rely on government subsidies.

According to a study conducted by a hunger relief organization, America's Second Harvest, they found that only 16 percent of food stamp recipients said their allotment has lasted them for an entire month.

Reuben Gist, director of advocacy and outreach for the Capital Area Food Bank in the U.S., said that "food stamps are not meant to supply all of a family's food. However, for many people it has become a way of life, it's a struggle to make them last."

Faisao said that on Jan. 11,

2008, after DCCA presented statistics and indicators for a revision of the current NAP funding, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial wrote to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Allen Ng for consideration in the budget increase and removal of the cap imposed by the U.S. OMB.

"The DCCA NAP expect a projected increase of roughly around \$13 million or more as in the NAP federal assistance program budget, since CPI has increased in voluminous jumps at about 17 percent to date. Besides, this request will be contingently in place upon approval by our counterpart in Region IX," the DCCA official said.

them off the road to be on the safe side," Pangelinan said.

Federal Programs advisor Tim Thornburgh said that this year PSS is ordering five new 66-passenger school buses with advanced diesel engines and air conditioning. "We are also ordering three units of the 16-passenger school buses with wheelchair access for our special students needing this accommodation."

According to Thornburgh, PSS will be replacing old school buses that have been in service from 10 to 14 years.

PSS has been facing a shortage of buses for more than several months now. As a result of

this, buses have been making extra trips picking up and dropping off students. As per Pangelinan, bus fuel cost used to be at \$15,000; however, with the extra trips they've been doing, bus fuel costs have reached up to \$19,000 a month.

"The extra trips we need to make in a day is what is really hurting us right now. But it's not just us; it's everybody else on the island," Pangelinan said.

He said the Pupil Transportation Division tries to accommodate everyone in a timely manner but he is hoping to get the new buses by September when the new school year begins.

"We just really need to take

the old buses off the road for safety. And once we do that, our buses will be right back down to 10. I'll still end up with a shortage of buses," Pangelinan said.

In an earlier interview, he said the pupil transportation unit would need at least 30 buses to make bus riding services run smoothly.

But with what PSS has right now, "we just try our best to accommodate everybody." After all, "our leaders of our future have to go to school somehow."

PSS will also be purchasing two units of 12 passenger vans with wheelchair access to replace vehicles use by the Saipan Call-A-Ride Program.

'Cop already confessed in the car insurance scam'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A police officer has already confessed to being involved with a group of persons involved in a car insurance scam, Saipan Tribune learned yesterday.

Reliable sources at the Department of Public Safety disclosed that the officer went to the DPS Criminal Investigation Division Wednesday last week where he admitted participation in the scam.

The officer also cooperated with CID detectives in the ongoing investigation, sources said.

The officer reportedly admitted preparing false Traffic Crash Reports for an auto shop owner last year in exchange for \$100 to \$150.

An auto shop employee would also give the officer \$200 for each TCR that he prepares.

Apparently the officer would get a call after the shop owner, an auto shop employee, and an insurance company personnel would have the vehicle registration and drivers licenses of the operators copied and ready for him.

The officer also allegedly admitted to forging the signature of another police officer to cover his tracks.

The insurance employee and the auto shop personnel have already been arrested over the weekend. Their case was sealed on Tuesday.

It was not clear yet whether the officer and the auto shop owner were arrested.

Sources said the court imposed a \$100,000 cash bail for the temporary release of the two arrested defendants.

OBESITY

From Page 1

ures that offer a glimmer of hope in an otherwise dismal battle.

"That is a first encouraging finding in what has been unrelentingly bad news," said Dr. David Ludwig, director of an obesity clinic at Children's Hospital Boston. "But it's too soon to know if this really means we're beginning to make meaningful inroads into this epidemic. It may simply be a statistical fluke."

In 2003-04 and 2005-06, roughly 32 percent of children were overweight or obese, and 16 percent were obese, according to a study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those levels held steady after rising without interruption since 1980.

"Maybe there is some reason for a little bit of optimism," said CDC researcher Cynthia Ogden, the study's lead author.

Some experts said that if the leveling-off is real, it could be because more schools and parents are emphasizing better eating habits and more exercise. Even so, they and Ogden stressed that it would be premature to celebrate.

"Without a substantial decline in prevalence, the full impact of the childhood epidemic will continue to mount in coming years," Ludwig said. That is because it can take many years for obesity-related complications to translate into life-threatening events, including heart attacks and kidney failure.

He co-wrote an editorial accompanying the study in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

He had no role in the research.

The results are based on 8,165 children ages 2 to 19 who participated in nationally representative government health surveys in 2003-04 and 2005-06.

The surveys are considered the most accurate reflection of obesity levels because they are based on in-person measurements, not on people's own reporting of their height and weight.

CDC data reported last year showed obesity rates for men also held steady from 2003-04 to 2005-06 at about 33 percent after two decades of increases. The rate for women, 35 percent, remained at a plateau reached in 2003-04.

The CDC's analysis of data for 2007-08, due next year, may be the best evidence for determining what direction children's rates are really heading, Ludwig said.

Dr. Reginald Washington, a children's heart specialist in Denver and member of an American Academy of Pediatrics obesity committee, said "the country should be congratulated" if the rates have in fact peaked.

"There are a lot of people trying to do good things to try to stem the tide," Washington said. Some schools are providing better meals and increasing physical education, and Americans in general "are more aware of the importance of fruits and vegetables," he said.

On the other hand, he noted that he recently treated an obese young patient "who in three days did not have a single piece of fresh fruit."

"We still have a long ways to go," he said.

Miura's 'inhumane' incarceration decried

Judge sets bail modification hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona allowed yesterday the lawyer of Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura to file a motion to allow him to post bail.

Manglona gave Miura's counsel until Friday, May 30, to file the motion for bail modifi-

cation and directed the Attorney General's Office to file its opposition to the motion by June 4.

The judge set the hearing for bail modification on June 6 at 2pm.

Manglona also granted Miura's counsel's request for an additional status conference, to be held on June 19.

Miura's lawyers informed the court they are still wait-

ing for what will happen in the California hearing.

At the hearing, the defendant appeared with his lawyers Bruce Berline, Mark Hanson, and William Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald told the court that their client should be allowed to post bail as he has been in jail for over three months now.

"This is too much of an expense to the Commonwealth," Fitzgerald said.

He pointed out that Mr. Miura, who is 61 years old, is not a flight risk.

Reading a California judge's statement in the Miura proceedings, Fitzgerald said the hearing in Los Angeles may be further delayed as some documents are needed to be translated.

"It is simply not fair to keep him in jail. He is 61 years old. This is an island. It's just in-

human to keep him in jail!" Fitzgerald argued.

The lawyer said their client should be allowed to post bail under certain conditions such as requiring him to show up at every hearing or calling the authorities everyday, among other terms, on top of the fact that Miura had already surrendered his passport.

Fitzgerald said it is simply unfair to keep Miura languishing in jail, not to mention the Commonwealth's expenses for his detention at this time of economic turmoil in the CNMI.

He also mentioned that it is a waste of the judiciary's resources.

If Miura is in California, he would be eligible for bail, Fitzgerald said.

Assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr. maintained that Miura is a flight risk.

"He is wanted for murder in California. That's a crime that

carries a punishment of life imprisonment or death," Warfield argued.

The prosecutor said he believes that if Miura is released he has all the reason to leave the CNMI to avoid further prosecution.

On the bail eligibility in California, Warfield said that's absolutely untrue and a misstatement of law.

"Capital punishment such as murder allows no bail. The arrest warrant from the state of California requests that he be held on zero bail. So had he been arrested in California he would be held with no bail, just like here," said Warfield in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing.

There is a hearing schedule to take place on June 16 (California time and June 17 CNMI time) in L.A. in Miura's case.

Warfield said that, at that point, the parties in the CNMI

case will come back and finalize the briefing schedule if one is necessary.

Warfield does not think there is any argument that Miura's counsel can make for their petition for writ of habeas corpus that is affected by the hearing in California.

"Whatever reasons exist for his release based on a petition for habeas corpus exist now. And they should go ahead and make those arguments now and we need to move forward in CNMI court and not stall this any further," he added.

Miura was arrested by Saipan authorities at the Saipan International Airport on Feb. 22 in connection with the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura, in L.A. in 1981.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the crime. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

Lizama says nothing can stop him from running for delegate

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama said yesterday that nothing could stop him from aspiring to be the CNMI's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In confirming reports of his plan to file his candidacy for the delegate position, Lizama told *Saipan Tribune* it is his desire to continue serving the public.

"This is the way that I've always been. So I feel that you can't step back and say 'you know this happened and therefore this is going to stop you, prevent you from furthering your aspiration,'" said the retired judge in an interview shortly after the CNMI Judiciary held a farewell party for him in a restaurant at Pacific Islands Club.

"Nothing is going to stop me from furthering my aspiration unless...I myself know better that there is no way you can achieve the aspiration. I think right now my feeling is I'm going in that direction. I want to achieve that aspiration," Lizama said.

On Nov. 4, 2008 a landmark election for the first NMI delegate to the U.S. House will be held in the Commonwealth. This will coincide with the general election in the U.S.

As for the unethical acts complaint filed against him before the CNMI Supreme Court, the former judge said he believes "it may have a positive aspect."

"To me, I'm looking at that as a positive thing. It's there but in any way and any event I'm aspiring for something. So, I can't talk about that," Lizama said.

At the farewell party attended by CNMI and Superior Court personnel, Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja awarded Lizama with a plaque of appreciation for his 10-year contribution to the Judiciary.

Associate Justice Alejandro Castro and associate judge Ramona V. Manglona joined the awarding.

Naraja, Castro, and Ramona Manglona, along with some courts' staff members, delivered brief speeches in honoring or remembering Lizama as a judge.

In his speech, Lizama said his departure from the court leaves him with bittersweet feelings.

"The last 10 years have been both exciting and challenging years of my life. Dealing with the law in the public light is a source of adrenaline, but with that light comes constant scrutiny by the public. It is all part of this position," he said.

The retired judge, however, stressed that he comes out of these last 10 years feeling proud that he served the public while maintaining the utmost respect toward the law, the courts, the process, and the people.

"As in other public figures, it is inevitable that some may disagree with my decisions and opinions. However, I am confident, and certain, that I upheld the integrity of the position and honored the oath that I made when I became a judge 10 years ago," Lizama said.

Aside from his wife, whom he described as positive, energetic and an inspiration in his life, Lizama also thanked former judges Edward Manibusan, Timothy H. Bellas, Virginia Sablan-Onerheim and all court staff for "being an integral part of an important process."

"I am excited about stepping out of the world I've known for the last 10 years and look forward to the new and challenging endeavors ahead of me," he said.

Lizama stepped down from the bench effective last Saturday. In 2003, he became the first judge in the CNMI to be retained to the post.

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MEMORIAL DAY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A member of the Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry of the US Army Reserve offers a prayer during Monday's observance of Memorial Day at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.



NEWLYWEDS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations going out to Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Michelle Magboo. Michelle Salvador is the daughter of Hector and Beth Salvador from Saipan. Michelle is also a member of NMI Badminton Association.



CHAMORRO SPELLING BEE WINNERS

Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja's third and fourth grade Chamorro Class Spelling Bee winners. Back row, from left, third grader and second placer Christian Hocog, fourth grader and ESFDB Chamorro Spelling champion Fortunato Manglona Jr., and third grader Jaime Joe Inos, who placed third. In front, Sr. Ascension A Zambra, O.P., ESFDB Administrator/Principal. Not in photo is SFC Edward Maratita, Chamorro language teacher. Cash prizes were donated by Barrigada Vice Mayor June U. Blas (Guam) and Paul Tanaka (Hawaii).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Red roses were offered during Monday's observance of Memorial Day at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.



OUTSTANDING STUDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isa Belle, a third grade student of Golden Harvest International School, received the Academic Excellence Award for SY 2007-2008. A student of GHIS since 2003, Isa Belle continues to achieve excellence in her academic journey. She attained the Academic Excellence Award for the past consecutive four years, of which she was the Valedictorian of her graduating class in 2005. Her parents, Senate President Pete P. Reyes and Glenna SP Reyes, proudly congratulate Isa Belle for her continued excellent achievements.



SON AND PRIDE OF CNMI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Airman George Reyes Fleming III for recently completing his initial training for the U.S. Air Force. George is the son of Florence and George Fleming Jr. of Dandan. Airman Fleming will be stationed temporarily at Keeseler Air Force Base, where he will continue education and training in aerospace avionics. Let's wish our Saipan warrior the best of luck! Special thanks to MSgt. Dayne C. Thomas, recruiter extraordinaire, motivator, and friend.



CONGRATULATIONS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Maria Christina Espeleta-Ano, shown here with her family during the Northern Marianas College Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 24, 2008. Espeleta-Ano graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Greetings come from your proud Mom, Dad, and family.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mommy Mimi Marinay joins her daughter Mhay as she celebrates her birthday on Saipan today, May 29. Mommy Mimi returns to the Philippines on June 7 after a brief vacation here.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Jasmin May Cordova who is celebrating her birthday today, May 29, 2008. Karl also just graduated on May 27 from the Oleai Elementary School. Greetings come from your family and cousins MJ, Justin, Geanewa and Kenisha.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulatory and happy birthday greetings go out to Karl Louie Roque, who is celebrating his 12th birthday today, May 29. Karl also just graduated on May 27 from the Oleai Elementary School. Greetings come from your family and cousins MJ, Justin, Geanewa and Kenisha.

Reyes offers own version of marine monument

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes has introduced a bill calling for the preservation of natural resources in the Northern Islands.

Senate Bill 16-32, which creates a "Northern Islands Commonwealth Conservation Area," is seen as a response to the marine monument proposal for the Marianas' northernmost islands.

In his bill, Reyes said it is necessary to reaffirm the constitutional protection of the northern islands because "recently people have called into question the Commonwealth's dedication

to environmental stewardship."

Pew Charitable Trusts, a not-for-profit organization, is lobbying for the designation of a Mariana Trench Marine National Monument around the islands of Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion.

The Fitial administration and the Legislature have publicly opposed the proposal, citing concerns about the CNMI's future ability to fish and utilize other resources available in the islands.

"We have been 'federalized' enough. We don't need any more people coming in and telling us how we should manage our natural resources," said Reyes,

alluding to the recent passage of a law allowing the federal government to seize control of the CNMI immigration.

Reyes said that his bill, which mainly codifies what's already in the Constitution, has the same intent as that of the Pew proposal: to protect the environment.

"Rather than giving up one-third of our land to the federal government's control, why not protect it ourselves? We can accomplish the same thing and maintain control at the same time," he added.

Angelo Villagomez, a local coordinator of Pew Charitable Trusts, said he welcomes all

conservation efforts in the community. But he pointed out that a national marine monument declaration could offer much more environmental protection than the local measure could.

"This bill is different from the Mariana Trench Marine Monument proposal in that it only pertains to the emergent

lands. There is language in the bill about submerged lands, but that issue has already been resolved. This bill has the potential to work in conjunction with the Marine Monument proposal to protect both the land and the water," Villagomez said.

He praised a provision in the bill that would create a conserva-

tion fund. But he said the language should be strengthened to keep the money in the fund from being used for non-conservation purposes.

Villagomez also urged the Senate to hold public hearings on the bill, as the Pew group has done since March, to allow for community input.

Marian Tudela named anew to Fund board

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has appointed a member of the Saipan Municipal Council to the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

Marian DLG Tudela was named to serve on the board after she resigned from the board of directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Tudela's latest nomination requires Senate confirmation.

PAWS Dog Show is back on schedule

The much anticipated, twice postponed, PAWS and Beautify CNMI! annual dog show is scheduled for June 7, 2008 from 4pm to 6pm at the CPA Airport Field. The exact location of the show will be at the southern end of the field underneath the Flame Trees.

The dog show was originally scheduled for May 17, 2008, but was postponed when PAWS president Katie Busenkell was invited to attend the United States Humane Society's Animal Care Expo, a convention on animal care and welfare. "It was an opportunity for networking that we could not pass up," said Busenkell.

Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the free event. It is a fun event for the entire family, including boondie dogs.

All dogs entered in the show, or present at the show, must wear a collar and have a leash. "If your dog has mange, a condition that causes the dog to lose hair, we ask that you not enroll your pet in the show," said PAWS vice president Melissa Simms. "Instead, we urge you to take your pet to a veterinarian for treatment."

For those dogs that are able to attend the show, owners may enter their dog to win prizes in the following categories: (1) The Fattest; (2) The Most Disobedient; (3) The Best Belly Dragger (for smaller breeds); (4) The Best Geriatric (for those older dogs); (5) The Most Like a Movie Star; and (6) The Booniest. A prize will also be awarded to the dog that wins the title, "The Best of the Worst," otherwise known as the best of show.

Prizes include Frontline for

ended in June 2003.

The CPA board of directors was suspended when Fitial recently took over the ports authority. The governor's executive order is effective for 120 days. But the Legislature has rejected the executive order, calling for the governor's to return CPA to board control.

The Legislature has also urged Fitial to replace all remaining board members at CPA. (Agnes E. Donato)

stration is strongly encouraged due to an expected high turnout.

When asked if she was excited about the dog show, Bernie Dela Cruz said, "Yes! Because I love dogs. I love animals."

Forms can be downloaded at www.paws-saipan.org and emailed to Katie at busenkell@gmail.com. If you have questions about the dog show, call the PAWS PTI hotline for more information at 285-PAWS. (PR)

PTI works to finish undersea cable project

Pacific Telecom Inc. informed customers yesterday about upcoming work to its undersea fiber optic cable. During the project, PTI customers may experience longer download times with Internet and DSL.

PTI does not anticipate loss of service at any time, only a reduction in Internet and DSL service speeds. Upon project completion, PTI will complete the upgrade that was begun last year and additional bandwidth and capabilities will be available as its fiber optic cable will be operating with increased capacity.

PTI's state of the art microwave system will handle all telecommunications traffic during the project and offer redundancy for all telecommunications systems. Since the upgrade last year, additional equipment was purchased to provide increased bandwidth to handle Internet traffic during this time.

Last summer while performing maintenance and upgrading the fiber optic system, a tropical storm forced the NTT Marine crew to stop work and return to port due to safety concerns. After the storm passed, the cable was put back into service, but more cable was required to complete the project. Twenty kilometers of cable was needed and had to be fabricated and transported to Saipan.

"Last year's unexpected storm made it necessary for additional fiber optic cable to be brought



The Cable Innovator.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

to the CNMI so the project could be completed. It takes many months for this type of cable to be produced and for the ship and crew to be scheduled," said Larry Knecht, General Manager of PTI. "Since this was the last step before project completion last summer, it will only take a few days to finish over Memorial Day weekend."

NTT World Engineering Marine Corp. is returning to complete this project. NTT-WE Marine will deploy a cable repair vessel, Cable Innovator, to the CNMI for this project.

PTI said it remains committed to serve the needs of the CNMI.

"We will make every attempt to complete the upgrade as quickly as possible in order to minimize any inconvenience this may cause. PTI would like to thank our customers in advance for your understanding as we make important upgrades and improve our service to our customers," said the company in a statement.

Customers are asked to call 682-4PTI with questions. (PTI)

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Magazine's second car rally a hit

With over 40 participants in 17 cars joining the event, *Beach Road Magazine* Second Annual Car Rally, held on May 24, was a huge success.

Susan Marchetti, *Beach Road Magazine* account manager and rally master, said the turnout was bigger this year, noting that there were only 13 cars in the first one held last year.

"Everybody had fun. All participants also took home prizes," Marchetti said.

The top three winners were Amanda Hayes, a U.S. District Court staff, who won the \$250 first prize; Mayuki Kebukawa, dive instructor who lives in Chinatown and winner of the \$200 second prize; and Lennie M. Kalan, of Kagman III who won the \$150 third prize. Kalan works at Saipan International Airport as a staff with the U.S. Transportation Security Administration.

All three said they did not expect to win, considering how much of a test of skill the car rally turned out to be as participants were given questionnaires to answer as they navigate from one checkpoint to another within a given time.

Marchetti said the winners were scored based on the highest number of accurate answers and on the closest they made it to the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rally master Susan Marchetti (in white shirt, wearing a cap) gives last minute instructions to the participants at the starting line in the upper parking lot of Palms Resort Saipan.

estimated completion time. She said the car rally covered approximately 32.5 miles with an estimated completion time of 86 minutes. Starting point was at the Palms Resort Saipan upper parking lot and finish line was at Kilili Beach.

There were four checkpoints in between—checkpoint 1 was

in Tanapag, checkpoint 2 was in Kagman, checkpoint 3 was at Shell's Dan Dan service station, and checkpoint 4 was at the parking lot of Saipan International School in As Lito.

Participants were given refreshments by Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc., Foremost Foods Saipan, and

Micronesian Brokers (CNMI) Inc., and duffle bags donated by Western Union at the checkpoints which were manned by *Beach Road Magazine* staff, and volunteers including *Beach Road Magazine* models Karen Hartman and Eli Espinas.

Awards party was held on May 25 at Oleai Beach Bar & Grill where the following prizes were given away: A gift certificate from Saipan Sea Ventures; a gift certificate from 360 Restaurant; two gift certificates for an overnight stay for two at Saipan Grand Hotel, lunch and dinner buffet also at Saipan Grand Hotel; an overnight stay for two at Palms Resort Saipan, and buffet at a Palms Resort F&B outlet; lunch for two at The Green Flash Restaurant; four gift bags from Boarderline; gift certificates for Megazone from Megabyte; two Wear-A-Marconi shirts; Wave Jungle passes, a gift certificate for two to Red Box 799 and a gift certificate for two to the Sunday brunch at World Café—all from Saipan World Resort; and Ensure Shakes from Micronesian Brokers (CNMI) Inc. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rally master Susan Marchetti checks her timepiece as the first car prepares to head to checkpoint 1 from the starting line in the upper parking lot of Palms Resort Saipan.

Summer program to start at Eco Camp

Now in its ninth year of operation, Marianas Trekking will hold Eco Camp Summer Sessions beginning June 9 at the Mariana Resort and Spa in Marpi. Four sessions will be held this summer.

"We're ready!" said camp director Vincene Asanuma. "Our activities this summer include swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, golf, arts and crafts, horseback riding, go karting, field trips, and even Off Road 4 x 4's. Other facilities include three swimming pools, a snorkeling beach, golf course, go kart track, baseball field, and stables."

Now in her third year of running the camp, Asanuma is one of the keys to Eco Camp's success.

"Vince is with us year round

now, Eco Camp is her baby and she works extremely diligently at making it better every year. Our goals at Eco Camp are simple, but they require a lot of hard work, and good teamwork. First, we want to continue to be at the forefront as the best kids program not just on Saipan but in the Western Pacific for both locals and tourists. Our new Adventure Center has a theatre room for presentations, an art room, and even a newly installed kitchen. We have also this year put in cameras that will let parents log on and see what is going on during camp," said Chris Nelson, owner of Marianas Trekking.

"It was very important to us to have indoor facilities that were as good as the outdoor ones.

Our Adventure Center gives us new capabilities, so whatever the weather, we can adjust and always provide an education and entertaining experience. Our second goal is to provide the Eco Camp experience to the kids of the local community at a reasonable price, and our third goal is to hire local counselors and help provide training that will help them in the future," he said.

Eco Camp started back in the summer of 2000 and is offered to tourists and locals. Camp is offered in daily, weekly, or two-week sessions.

This summer Eco Camp will again offer a buffet lunch option, on line registration at www.marianastrekking.com and even pick up at the American Memorial Park Tennis Courts.

"We now have some kids from Asia and even the states that make Eco Camp their summer vacation. It is neat to see local kids be able to make new friends with kids from all over," said Asanuma, "and we continue to be proud of being a good local employer. In the past nine years we've been able to hire lots of counselors who are studying on island to be teachers, we've even had former camp participants that have trained and come back to work as counselors, so they have come full circle."

Eco Camp is designed for kids between the ages of 4 and 13, and is priced at \$175 for a two-week session. Sign up is at www.marianastrekking.com or you can call Asanuma at 323-TREK (8735). (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 29, 2000

CUC selects Enron

The controversy swirling around the procurement of a new power plant on Saipan is not likely to simmer down soon despite handing out the multi-million dollar contract to Texas-based industrial conglomerate Enron. For the second time, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation made an actual award to a bidder, which came nearly two years after it chose Japan's Marubeni Corp. and its U.S. partner Sithe Energies, Inc. in June 1998 following a highly-questionable selection process.

Board sought to regulate private schools

The State Board of Education is looking to address the absence of a regulatory body which should oversee the entry of private schools into the CNMI education system. BOE Chair Frances H. Diaz has underscored the need for the creation of a regulatory board which would exercise control over schools chartered out of the Public School System.

Mayors support change in MVA set-up

The island-municipalities of Saipan and Rota have endorsed the passage of a proposed measure that will transfer the management of the Marianas Visitors Authority to the private sector. Mayor Jose C. Sablan said he is endorsing HB 12-135 which he believes is a pro-business legislation as it encourages and support the development of the tourism industry comprising mostly of tourist-oriented and other related businesses.

MAY 29, 2001

Exporters paying tax twice

The Division of Revenue and Taxation has been imposing distorted tax requirements on Northern Marianas-based businesses transporting out-bound goods, according to House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta. Specifically, Mr. Babauta said the revenue and taxation division requires on-island investors to pay both the Business Gross Revenue Tax and the Custom Certification User Fee for locally-produced for-export goods.

New student loan program sought

A lawmaker has proposed for the cancellation of at least six existing financial aid programs to be replaced by one comprehensive student loan program, citing depleting government resources. House Committee on Education Chair Brigida Ichihara has authored an initiative dubbed as the Guaranteed Student Loan Act of 2000 which seeks to repeal current laws or regulations that has established postsecondary financial assistance for students funded by public funds.

BPL balks land transfer to CPA

The Board of Public Lands Management is opposed to the transfer of title and ownership of a property in Puerto Rico to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Ports officials previously asked the Legislature to allow the transfer of a portion of public lands adjacent to the Puerto Rico dumpsite, which CPA proposed to use in the development of port-related support facilities.

MAY 29, 2002

Ferry services may resume Friday

Ferry services between Saipan and Tinian may resume on Friday as negotiations in Hong Kong between the Tinian Shipping and Transportation, Inc. and its creditor move forward. This was learned from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino Hotel General Manager Tom Liu, quoting updates on the negotiations between Tinian Shipping and Hong Kong-based World Fame Shipping.

Confidence in NMI economy grows

The Commonwealth Development Authority expressed optimism that the CNMI economy will rally stronger in the remaining months of 2002, as business activities normalize during the first part of the year. CDA Executive Director MaryLou S. Ada based this projection on the number of business expansion as well as the construction of new establishments in the first few months of 2002.

Sparks fly in Senate public hearing

Sparks flew during yesterday's Senate Committee on Health and Welfare public hearing, with the chairman of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees storming out of the Senate chamber due to what he said was his frustration over the incessant whining of local health care providers. In defiance of repeated calls by Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig, chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, for him to sit down and control himself, Board Chair Vicente Camacho stood up and scored the representatives of local private health care providers for their unremitting complaints, saying the Board has no plans of changing anything just to accommodate the complaints of two private health care providers.

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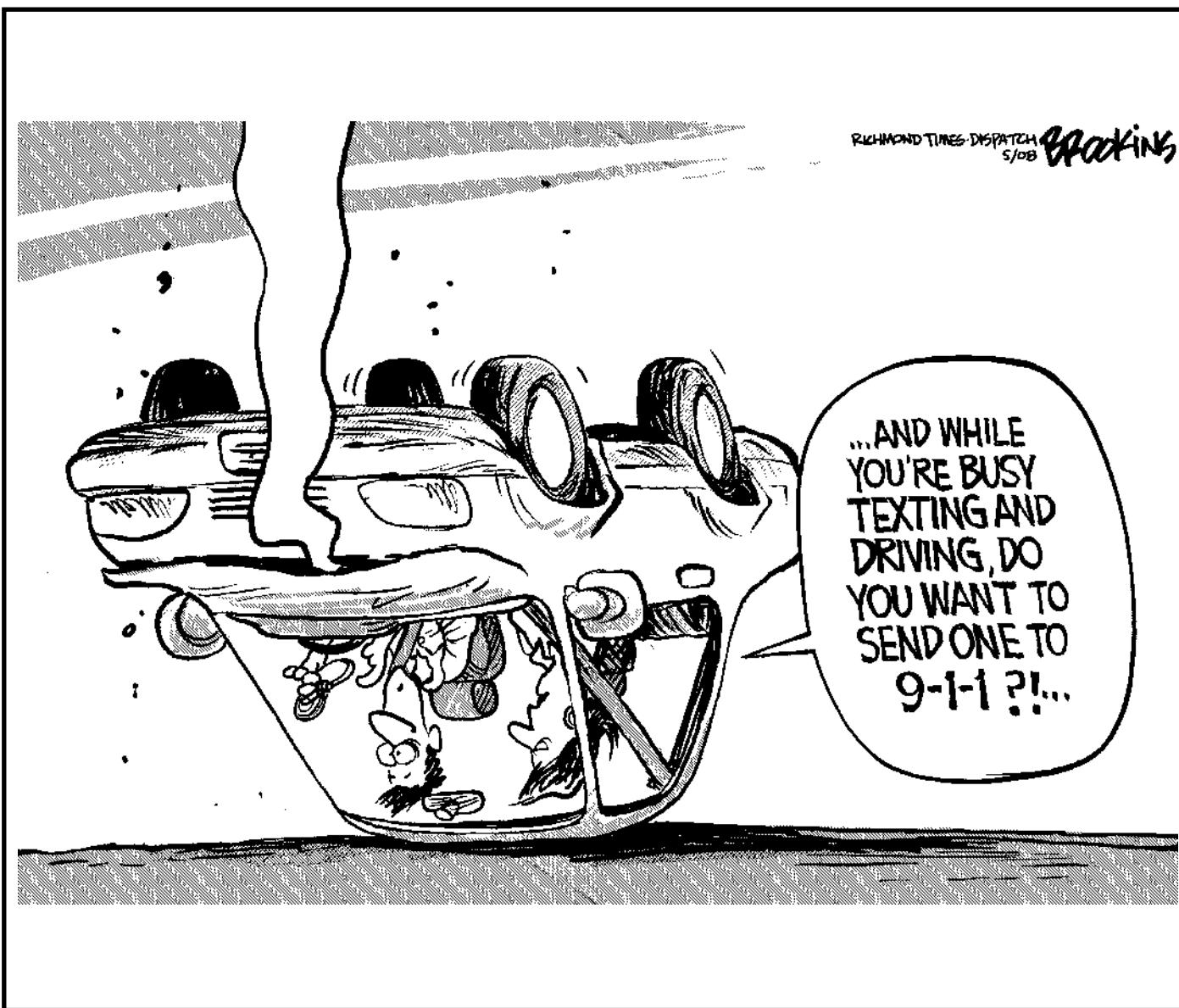
Release the rice

Kudos to the government of Japan, which we recently urged to sell or donate a substantial portion of its massive stockpile of U.S.-grown rice. Early last week it did so, announcing that it would sell 200,000 metric tons of the grain to the Philippines, one of the countries hit hardest by the recent spike in global rice prices. A few days later, Tokyo added a donation of 20,000 metric tons to five African nations. And kudos also to the Bush administration for encouraging Japan to take these steps. The measures will give both Japan and the United States moral standing at next week's meeting of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization to urge countries such as Vietnam and India, which are still limiting exports of rice, to be more flexible.

Tokyo's policy change has helped ease what previously seemed to be an unstoppable price rise on the global rice market. But more needs to be done. Japan is scheduled to import an additional 680,000 metric tons of rice this year. Rather than simply add that to its stockpiles, as it has done in the past, Japan should dedicate some or all of the rice directly to the World Food Program and allow the WFP to pick it up directly in the countries of origin to save on transportation costs, as the Center for Global Development, a Washington think tank, has proposed.

Looking further ahead, Japan needs to consider consuming more U.S. and other foreign-grown rice itself, thus limiting what has become a major distortion in the global rice trade. That was the original purpose of the trade agreement under which imports into Japan's highly protected rice market were first authorized a decade and a half ago. Of course, a set-aside for foreign producers within a broadly controlled market is itself an outmoded and wasteful policy, one that could be politically sustained only during a period of cheap food. Now that higher commodity prices are here, probably to stay, it's time to push for free trade in rice throughout Asia, Japan included.

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Smiles Training

It was interesting to recently read that Philippine police officers who are gruff to the public were told to smile in public or face suspension. In other words, their boss basically told them: "look happy, or we'll make your life miserable." Now, that's the way to motivate your staff to give better service—NOT!

Most businesses consider customer service training a combination of teaching their staff how to smile, greet the customers in a friendly manner, and asking them how they can be of service. Just doing those things places your business in the top twenty percent of customer-friendly businesses.

Think about your last visit to Dolphin Wholesale. You can't enter the place without one of the cashiers greeting you. When we ask people to think of all the places that have good service, Dolphin is usually mentioned; however, the service you actually receive is no different from most of the other businesses on island. There is practically no other interaction with the customer except for the initial greeting when you walk in and thanking you after you make a purchase.

To place your business in the upper 10 percent bracket, there are a number of things you should implement into your business. You may already have the resources and capacity to grow your business a lot more than you think you are capable, and these 10 questions will help you determine if you are performing at your full service potential, or if there is room for improvement.

Answer each question on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 representing exceptional or always, 5 meaning good or sometimes, and 1 representing poor, never, or no program in place.

1. Would your customers say that they have a consistently pleasant or delightful experience every time they visit and make a purchase?

2. Do you have an organizational service plan, service mission statement, or service vision that lets everyone understand the level of service you expect, guides their behavior, and provides a standard from which you can measure your service?

3. Do you have a highly motivated staff that is excited to perform at their best and provide outstanding customer service?

4. Have you positioned your business so that prospects, customers, and employees unquestionably understand the unique value you offer over the competition, and have you turned it into a compelling story that they will want to tell others?

5. Even if your service is good overall, do you offer a higher level of service to those customers who provide the greatest value to your organization so that they remain loyal to your business? (This presupposes you already know your customer's

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGRAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



lifetime value and which customers visit more often and spend more money.)

6. Does everyone on your staff that assists customers ask insightful questions to understand the needs of your customers so they can recommend the right products, services or upgrade to purchase that will best satisfy their wants and needs?

7. Do you regularly "take the pulse" of your customers through surveys, questionnaires, or informal discussions, so you can better understand their wants and needs and make the changes that will serve them better?

8. If a customer is dissatisfied, do all your employees have the ability to handle a complaint and do whatever it takes to turn the event into a positive experience that creates a loyal customer?

9. Do you regularly communicate with your customers, and offer incentives that encourage them to return more and purchase more often from your business?

10. Do you have a system in place to turn your ex-customers into your best customers? (Do you know your customer loss rate, and why they leave?)

Add all the scores to give your organization an overall service score. If you scored between 90 to 100, you are already an exceptional service provider. If you scored 80 or better, congratulations, you are probably one of the top businesses in your industry. A score between 60 to 79 means you're better than average, with 40 to 59 ranking average. If your score is less than 40, you have a lot of potential waiting to be developed.

If you would like to get a 16-point customer service report card, email us at bizresults@yahoo.com. We've analyzed the key elements it takes to turn your business into a customer-focused organization that goes beyond mere smiles training. However, if you don't have time to work on your customer service, at least get your people to smile and be friendlier...or else suspend them (hey, it works for the Philippine police department and it just might work wonders for your business).

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Selecting a delegate to the US Congress

While I have been a long time resident of Saipan, currently only temporarily absent from the islands, I have been thinking about the person who will be selected as the CNMI's delegate in the U.S. Congress.

The most qualified person I know who is completely unaware of this article and my preference is David M. Sablan.

In the more than 35 years I have known and worked with—and for him—I am not aware of a single person who does not think very highly of Dave's abilities. I'll tell you one thing: I have certainly learned a lot from him.

In my current "non-voting" judgment he is the one person who has all the qualities needed to successfully represent the islands in Washington. He's smart, honest and dedicated to service and the community. He has a vision of the future and what the islands can become and, most of all, people like him. They listen to him and they respect him—exactly the character traits that will be needed in Congress.

It was Dave, working through the Saipan Chamber of Commerce back in the early 70s, who was single-handedly instrumental in convincing the U.S. Government to abandon the U.N.'s economic stranglehold on the economy by abandoning the so-called "favored

nation clause." This opened up the islands to foreign investment. He has always been in the forefront in working for what was best for the islands. Those were the years when there was no concerted effort on the part of the Trust Territory Government or the Marianas District to encourage foreign investment with local participation.

It was through the efforts of Dave Sablan and several others that the tourism industry was launched when he successfully arranged for the financing and construction of the PanAm Intercontinental Inn in Garapan (later the Dai-Ichi and Fiesta Resort).

He has been elected by his peers as the president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and was the founder and president of the Saipan Rotary Club—more times than I can remember. He has also served for many years on the Board of MVA. All that ought to tell you something about his qualification.

Probably, most importantly, Dave is not a professional politician—he's a successful businessman—exactly what the islands so desperately need during these trying times.

And if that's not enough to impress his colleagues in the U.S. Congress, he is a survivor of the World War II American bombardment and the Japanese resistance during one of the most horrific battles of

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



the war. That will certainly gain the respect and high esteem of those in Congress, none of whom can claim that distinction.

During those days before the islands' political status had been determined, anyone arriving on Saipan to discuss investment opportunities made it a point to stop first to meet Dave Sablan for their economic and business briefing. His assistance and advice, always generously given, has been helpful in many other diverse areas. He has the reputation of arranging solutions to problems—"Mr. Fix-it"—a man who many still turn to regardless of the problem to help make them right. His reputation is of a person always ready to help.

David M. Sablan or DMS is a fitting acronym: D for Dedication to excellence; M for Methodical management; S-for Skilled solutions.

I for one hope he will declare himself a candidate.

The taboo of obesity

By JEREMY BROWN

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

I have been doing the unthinkable, and the word is out. I am an emergency physician in Washington, and I've started talking to my patients about their weight.

It has taken me a while to pluck up the courage to speak frankly with obese patients about this problem. For 15 years I have broached virtually every delicate subject—from sexual histories to the cough that is really cancer—in the noisy, impersonal setting of a busy ER. It is expected of me. It is my job.

So why has it been so hard to talk about this? With an epidemic of obesity in the United States, why are so many doctors skittish about discussing obesity with its sufferers? The truth is, I don't know.

On a recent shift, I treated a woman in her mid-40s who had had pain in her left knee for a month. She had not twisted or injured it in any way that she could recall. There were no signs of infection above the knee. She wanted an X-ray.

She also weighed close to 300 pounds. That's a lot of stress on a joint. Her knees simply cannot keep supporting her weight.

Until recently, I would have ordered an X-ray. Ordering an X-ray makes everyone happy: The hospital charges for taking it. The radiologist charges to read it. The patient often wants the test and is happy to have more than a three-minute evaluation. Once the film is developed,

I mention something about there being no fracture and seeing some changes consistent with early arthritis. Then I prescribe some pain relief. The patient would leave feeling vindicated. His or her problem was captured on film, and the interminable wait was somehow worth it.

Ultimately, though, this approach is wrong. When the emergency room is crowded, it is easy to let the preventive aspects of medicine slip away. Obesity is not only about health risks, which include diabetes, joint pain, congestive heart failure, strokes, back pain, sleep apnea, depression, infertility and erectile dysfunction. It is also about the root causes and our society's denial of the woeful impact obesity is having on Americans' health. Let me "not fail to see what is visible" is the line I recall from the Prayer for Physicians attributed to the great physician-philosopher of the Middle Ages, Moses Maimonides, a copy of which hangs over my desk. Non-traumatic knee pain in an obese patient is a sign that she needs dietary counseling, not radiographic imaging.

Although preventive medicine is not really part of our job description, it has not been ignored by emergency physicians. More than seven years ago, the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine directed its Public Health and Education Task Force to develop recommendations for prevention that included screenings and counseling. Possible interventions included pneumococcal immunization for seniors, pap screening for women and pediatric immunizations in children. They considered screening for sexually transmitted dis-

eases, tobacco and alcohol use, diabetes, hypertension, HIV and domestic violence. They wondered if we should ask all patients about the safe storage of their firearms and use of smoke detectors. After reviewing 17 possible interventions, the task force recommended routine screening for alcohol, smoking, HIV and hypertension; immunizations; and the referral of children without primary care physicians to a continuing source of care. The next time you cut your finger and go to the ER needing sutures, I should speak to you about these conditions.

Have you noticed what is missing?

There are many opinions about what one can say to overweight patients needing long-term treatment. There is, of course, much that we do not know about obesity. Is it a lifestyle choice, a physical or mental illness, or the result of some genetic trait? Should those who are severely obese exercise, follow a strict diet, take anti-obesity medications, undergo surgery or all of the above? If it is confusing to me, it must be harder for my patients. That is why we need to begin this conversation in medical school and continue it through residency and beyond. We need to prepare physicians for this necessary conversation.

Jeremy Brown is an associate professor of emergency medicine and research director in the Department of Emergency Medicine at George Washington University Hospital. He is the author of the Oxford American Handbook of Emergency Medicine.

Letters to the Editor

Well, gee golly Gomer

Given that there is no CNMI institution singularly more responsible than the CNMI Judiciary for the CNMI's demise among investors over the past two decades, it is curious to read the groveling drivel by which several CNMI Bar Association members publicly intimate that the best and brightest have served as CNMI jurists and those presently serving should not be subjected to salary diminution as the general CNMI citizenry starves.

After all, it was the CNMI Judiciary, was it not, which in lieu of promptly

disposing of baseless and greedily-motivated Article 12 land claims originating in the 1980s, opted instead to needlessly create the CNMI Supreme Court to divest jurisdiction over those claims from the U.S. District Court's then-existing Appellate Division, and to thereafter perpetuate those legally baseless claims for years until final disposition by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals?

Which, of course, is in turn why investors from Japan and elsewhere correctly deemed the CNMI an investors'

nightmare as this nonsense persisted into the mid-1990s or so. Followed, soon after, by the departure of Japanese luminaries JAL, Tokyo Marine, and others, e.g., Nikko Hotel.

It was the CNMI Judiciary, was it not, which thereafter, in tandem with their legislative counterparts, orchestrated the enactment of legislation compelling the CNMI Retirement Fund to loan to the CNMI Judiciary the \$10 million or so used to construct the CNMI Judiciary's temple-to-itself, in the shadow of the nearby, decrepit, high school so desperately needing repair to educate the CNMI's most valuable gift, its youth?

Fast-forward to present, and let this CNMI Judiciary disclose to the eco-

nomically suffering CNMI public, if it will, just how much of the \$10 million loan from the Fund has been repaid? Why might the word "zero" come to mind? Interest payments?

Or, just why must CNMI judges/justices be furnished with publicly-funded vehicles and gasoline when they are paid to be at work in the Guma Hustitia and, while there, to work at work?

As for the CNMI Judiciary's relationship with the seemingly-soon-to-be-bankrupt CNMI Retirement Fund, well, gee golly Gomer, how many retired judges/justices are receiving how much in the way of hefty six-figure annual payments from the Fund?

And now we've got the specter of the Chief Justice urging the legislators

not to cut CNMI judges'/justices' salaries? Hmmm, let's ponder: perhaps instead it might suffice to simply slash 50 percent of their salaries for reprogramming in payment to the CNMI Retirement Fund?

Investors want stability in tandem with functioning public institutions possessing integrity and competence. In the CNMI Judiciary they've gone wanting over the course of the 1980s and 1990s with the result now in the 21st century readily apparent by way of the CNMI's economic collapse the result of failed investor-confidence causing wholesale investor-flight.

Bruce L. Jorgensen
via e-mail

Training for Immigration personnel

This letter is in regards to Federal training for the current Saipan CNMI Immigration personnel.

First off, there are many good people employed at CNMI Immigration, so this letter is not meant to degrade those few who actually take their jobs seriously.

However, I would suggest that Mr. Grey procure ethics training and also customer interaction training for all personnel before he consider having anyone trained for possible future jobs with the Feds.

The Feds will not allow people to take off to do personal errands like

pick up their kids from school, go to the bank and stop at the poker parlor and or not return to work, etc.

They will also have to show up to work on time.

It will become a Federal crime when they borrow (extort) money from a tourist, or others who happens to be coming in to visit relatives or to get married to a U.S. citizen in the CNMI.

I would also suggest many of his people take night-time courses at the college to improve their grammar, reading skills and simple math.

The ones without a high school education will have to have at least a GED to qualify for a Fed job, with clean drug tests and pass a psychological evaluation.

To avoid wasting money I would suggest all of his personnel that might be interested in working for the Fed are required to pass the entrance test for Homeland Security, for the airport screening inspector post before wasting money for any other training.

The people that can pass this then would be allowed to go on to training for the Immigration jobs and be put

into applicant's pool to be considered by the Feds.

(Someone with a decision making authority on Saipan would also have to be able to be available and be contacted by the off island department heads regularly.)

The good thing about the Feds is that at least this department will be away from the Attorney General and the Governor's Office.

John Mixson
San Jose, Tinian

I am writing this letter to publicly apologize to all of you for the mistake(s) which I had committed, for that reason I asked for your forgiveness. I am deeply remorseful and promise never to commit such mistake again.

Corazon R. Atalig
Saipan

Open letter to the public

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼71
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲77 ▼63
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼80
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼74
London	Cloudy	▲68 ▼58
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲76 ▼57
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲67 ▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲76 ▼60
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼61
Paris	Showers	▲64 ▼56
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲76 ▼54
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲75 ▼57
Salem	Cloudy	▲70 ▼48
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲63 ▼52
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲66 ▼53
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲70 ▼58
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲79 ▼64

Tides

		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Today	5:46AM	6:43PM	Today	12:54AM	1:08PM
2:37AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet		Friday	1:32AM	2:02PM
9:11AM Today	Low Tide: 0.8 Feet		Saturday	2:12AM	2:58PM
2:17PM Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet		Sunday	2:56AM	3:59PM
8:28PM Today	Low Tide: 0.5 Feet		Monday	3:45AM	5:04PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily

CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6

CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota

CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily

CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily

CO 9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily

CO 9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota

CO 9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7

CO 9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily

CO 9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily

CO 9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya

NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily Nagoya

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6

CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7

OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7

OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap

and Koror

CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6

CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7

CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror

CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily

PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guangzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JC: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

<tbl_struct

Business

TO CELEBRATE EIGHT YEARS IN GUAM

IConnect launches \$100K chance to win promo



Giger

TAMUNING, Guam—Celebrating its 8th anniversary in Guam, IConnect said it remains committed to providing advanced Push-2-Talk radio and cellular communications to island businesses and residents. In celebration of this anniversary, IConnect announced yesterday its \$100,000 chance to win promotion.

"This promotion is our way of giving back to the Island, said Matt Giger, vice president of IConnect. "We will be giving away really great prizes and the chance for one lucky person to win \$100,000 in cash. Imagine all the great things you could do with \$100,000!"

IConnect's \$100,000 8th anniversary promotion runs from

The final drawing will accompanied by entertainment at the IConnect retail store, (center court) at Micronesian Mall. More information on this promotion can be obtained by visiting any IConnect location or by calling IConnect Customer Service at 888-8888.

"IConnect will donate some portion of the sales proceeds from this \$100,000 promotion directly back into community charities. We believe in supporting community-driven activities on the island and in the region," said Giger. "We expect that these types of events will fuel others within the industry and cross-industry in giving back more to the community. The direct support of this promotion will give us the

flexibility to do similar promotions in the future and expand our opportunities to give back to the community in every way."

About IConnect

"IConnect found life with each new customer and continues to embrace each and every customer as if they were our first," said Jake Woo, company representative for IConnect. "We would like to thank Guam for eight great years! Our modest company still provides an advanced, easy to use, and inexpensive way for people to instantly communicate. We are extremely enthusiastic about the future of Guam and we continue to bring in new handsets like our Slim & Lite series and invest in new technology as our commit-

ment to the Island and our loyal customers."

Founded in 2000, IConnect is a wireless communications company specializing in walkie-talkie, radio push-2-Talk services with cellular backup. IConnect has played an integral part in the development of emergency services and first responder communications on Guam. It has driven the competition as the newcomer brand and led the way in PTT technological innovations to become the largest push-2-talk provider in on Guam and in the region. IConnect's highly developed push-2-talk network provides instant connections on four islands reaching more than 220,000 residents. (iConnect)

Foremost milk buyers win in first draw of 'Gotta lotta cases' promo

Five of the eight first drawing winners of Foremost Foods Saipan's "Gotta lotta cases?" promo regularly buy Foremost Foods' milk products by the case for their kids.

Erlinda Shimizu of Gualo Rai; Barbara Wesley of Fimasisu; Novelyn Tenorio of Chinatown; Valerie Villagomez of Kagman; and Victor Silva of Chinatown said they always keep a supply of Foremost Foods' UHT Milk and Reduced Fat Milk at home.

"I always buy Foremost milk," Shimizu said, adding that she only had one coupon and hurriedly filled it out and dropped it in the drop box at Joeten Hafa Adai Supermarket where she bought a case because of other things she had to do that day. She said she wasn't expecting to win. "I'm so very happy. This is my first time to win in a raffle," she said.

Shimizu, who has a two-year-old son named Cody, won a barbecue grill.

Wesley, for her part, said she always buys Foremost milk for her grandchildren. "Every week, we buy Foremost milk,"

she said, adding that she got her coupon from Happy Market in As Lito where she bought the milk. Wesley, who won a microwave oven, said she'll give her prize to her son.

Tenorio, another winner who works as executive secretary to Office of Aging director Howard Macaranas, said she bought two cases of Foremost Foods milk at Joeten Hafa Adai Supermarket, which she usually does. "I regularly buy Foremost milk. This is the first time I won in a raffle. It feels good," Tenorio said, adding that she donated her prize—a blender—to the Office of Aging.

Villagomez said she entered approximately 15 coupons. The winner of a convection oven with rotisserie, Villagomez likewise said she regularly buys Foremost Foods milk products. "It feels good to buy Foremost milk and win as well," she said.

Silva, also a winner, said he always buys Foremost Foods' milk for his two-year-old son, Vince. "I buy around five cases a month for my boy," Silva said. He won a rice cooker.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of the first drawing for Foremost Foods Saipan's "Gotta lotta cases?" promo pose for the camera after receiving their prizes at the Foremost Foods Saipan-Coca-Cola office in Chalan Lau Lau on May 21, 2008. From left are Victor Silva and son, Vince; Erlinda Shimizu and son, Cody; Barbara Wesley, Valerie Villagomez and Novelyn Tenorio. Silva won a rice cooker; Shimizu, a barbecue grill; Wesley, a microwave oven; Villagomez, a convection oven with rotisserie; and Tenorio, a blender. The drawing was held on May 9, 2008.

The five were awarded their prizes at the Foremost Foods office in Chalan Lau Lau on May 21. The three other winners were Vanny Andonius, who won a bread toaster; Olive Stewart who received a pressure cooker; and Joey Paranada, who got a cookware set.

Foremost Foods' "Gotta lotta cases?" promo runs from April

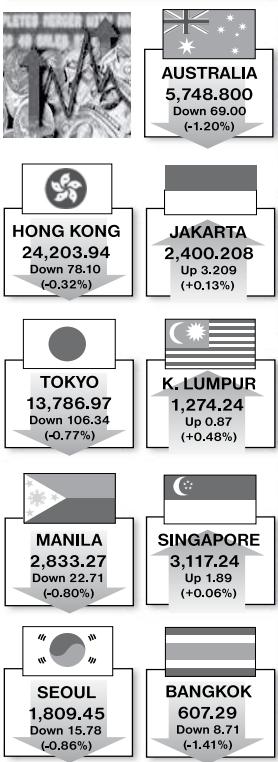
16 to July 5, 2008. The second raffle drawing, which will be held to pick the single winner of the "Baby Grand Prize," is scheduled for May 30, 2008. The Baby Grand Prize package includes rice cooker, microwave oven, bread toaster, blender, food processor, pressure cooker, cookware set, barbecue grill, a dinnerware set, a convection oven with

rotisserie, and a waffle maker.

A customer will receive an entry form for every purchase of six 1-qt cartons of Foremost UHT Reduced Fat and/or Full Cream milk. To qualify for the second drawing, entry forms must be received not later than July 5, 2008. See drop boxes for promo rules.

Foremost UHT Milk is packed with local pride. (PR)

ASIAN MARKETS



LEADING INDICATORS



MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.04
British Pound	0.5045
Canadian Dollar	0.9899
Chinese Renmbi	6.9397
Euro	0.633
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8051
Indian Rupee	42.866
Indonesian Rupiah	9,357.5
Japanese Yen	103.372
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2485
New Zealand Dollar	1.2668
Philippine Peso	43.715
Singapore Dollar	1.3619
South Korean Won	1043.75
Swiss Franc	1.0233
Taiwan Dollar	30.505
Thailand Baht	32.355

In U.S. dollar terms

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil drops below \$129 a barrel on demand concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices dropped below \$129 a barrel Tuesday, falling sharply on a growing sense that soaring gas and oil prices have cut demand for fuel during the normally busy summer driving season. At the pump, meanwhile, retail gasoline prices rose, but only slightly. Light, sweet crude for July delivery fell \$3.34 to settle at \$128.85 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, but fell as low as \$128.18 in after-hours electronic trading. It was oil's biggest one-day decline since March 31. Prices peaked at \$135.09 a barrel Thursday. The average national price of a gallon of regular gas rose only 0.1 cent overnight to a record \$3.937, according to a survey of stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service.

New reports give bleak outlook on housing, economy

NEW YORK (AP)—Not since George H.W. Bush ran the White House have consumers felt so downbeat about

the economy. And the catalyst for much of the gloom—the housing slump—shows no signs of abating, new data Tuesday showed. "The consumer has no more money to spend," said Dan Alpert, managing director at the investment bank Westwood Capital. "The only way the economy is not going to recede is if someone cooks the books." Consumer sentiment fell to its lowest level since October 1992 when the economy was coming out of a recession, the New York-based Conference Board said Tuesday. Economists monitor sentiment because consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

Stocks higher after home sales data, lower oil

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street advanced in uneven trading Tuesday after a drop in oil prices and an unexpected gain in new home sales encouraged investors to put money back into the market. Stocks picked up momentum late in the session as oil prices drifted below \$129 a barrel. This helped ease investor concerns about the effect of soaring

energy and food prices on consumers, who account for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 68.72, or 0.55 percent, to 12,548.35. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.42, or 0.68 percent, to 1,385.35, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 36.57, or 1.50 percent, to 2,481.24.

NY judge says Dell Inc. misled customers

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A New York judge concluded Tuesday that Dell Inc. engaged in repeated false and deceptive advertising of its promotional credit financing and warranties. State Supreme Court Justice Joseph Teresi ordered the computer retailer to more clearly disclose that most customers don't qualify for free financing or get "next day" repair service. New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo sued Dell last year. Teresi gave him until Dec. 1 to identify all consumer claims for third-party repairs, new computers or higher interest payments than they would have paid otherwise.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Va. executes man who killed convenience store owner

JARRATT, Va. (AP)—A man whose lawyers claimed he was mentally disabled has been executed for killing a convenience store owner in Virginia. Kevin Green was pronounced dead Tuesday at 10:05 p.m. EDT in the first execution in Virginia in nearly two years. The 31-year-old's execution by injection is also the third in the U.S. since the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of lethal injection in April. Green was convicted of the 1998 killing of Patricia Vaughan. The U.S. Supreme Court, a federal judge and the state's governor each refused Tuesday to halt the execution. The request for clemency from the governor was based on Green's attorneys' claim that the killer was mentally disabled.

NASA pioneer Ernst Stuhlinger dies at 94

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Ernst Stuhlinger, one of the last surviving German rocket scientists who came to America after World War II and formed the engineering foundation of the nation's space program, has died. He was 94. Stuhlinger, who died Sunday, had been in failing health for several months, according to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Stuhlinger served as chief scientist for Wernher von Braun and was among the group of German scientists who moved with him to Huntsville in 1950 when the Army established the Ordnance Missile Laboratories. The von Braun team developed the propulsion system that helped NASA put man on the moon in 1969. Stuhlinger retired in 1975 as the associate director of science at the Marshall Space Flight Center, where the Saturn V moon rocket was designed. He later co-authored a book about von Braun.

Space station crew to NASA: Send plumber soon

WASHINGTON (AP)—The international space station's lone toilet is broken, leaving the crew with almost nowhere to go. So NASA may order an in-orbit plumbing service call when space shuttle Discovery visits next week. Until then, the three-man crew will have to make do with a jury-rigged system when they need to urinate. While one of the crew was using the Russian-made toilet last week, the toilet motor fan stopped working, according to NASA. Since then, the liquid waste gathering part of the toilet has been working on-and-off. Fortunately, the solid waste collecting part is functioning normally. Russian officials don't know the cause of the problem and the crew has been unable to fix it. The crew has used the toilet on the Soyuz return capsule, but it has a limited capacity. They are now using a back-up bag-like collection system that can be connected to the broken toilet, according to NASA public affairs officials.

Iranian guilty of using US nuclear software

PHOENIX (AP)—An engineer from Iran was convicted Tuesday of illegally accessing a protected computer in the United States to use training software he obtained at a former job at a nuclear power plant in Arizona. The jury deadlocked on two other counts against Mohammad Reza Alavi: stealing protected software and illegally exporting the software in violation of the U.S. trade embargo with Iran. A retrial was set for Aug. 1. Alavi, 50, a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Iran, ran afoul of the law in 2006, when he quit his job at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station west of Phoenix and allegedly brought a laptop to Iran containing training software with design schematics and other details of the plant.

US on track to break record for tornadoes



Todd Hanson sits on the stoop of what's left of the Gerard Prindle home Monday, May 26, 2008 in Hugo, Minn., following the severe weather that swept through Sunday, killing two-year-old Nathaniel Prindle. Hanson is related by marriage.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Another week, another rumbling train of tornadoes that obliterates entire city blocks, smashing homes to their foundations and killing people even as they cower in their basements.

With the year not even half done, 2008 is already the deadliest tornado year in the United States since

CIA is watching for al-Qaida 'succession'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. is making "a big and continual push" to capture or kill al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, but his demise won't end the organization's menace, CIA Director Michael Hayden said Tuesday in an Associated Press interview. The CIA is equally interested in those jockeying to replace bin Laden in what he predicted will be a "succession crisis."

"It will be really interesting to see how that plays out. The organization is a lot more networked than it is ruthlessly hierarchical," Hayden said of the group behind the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. "How do you pick the next overall leader?"

A number of Egyptians are now part of al-Qaida's top echelon and may struggle for power among themselves. Bin Laden's current No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, is an Egyptian.

Despite al-Qaida's resilience, taking out bin Laden would be a psychological blow to the organization, Hayden said.

"If there ever was a sense of invulnerability I think killing or capturing him would shatter it once and for all," he said.

Bin Laden is believed to be hiding in the lawless tribal areas of western Pakistan. The new Pakistani government is negotiating a new peace agreement with the tribes that would have them expel extremists and police the region on their own. Hayden said he believes the result will be similar to the last agreement Pakistan struck with the tribes—nothing is likely to change.

1998 and seems on track to break the U.S. record for the number of twisters in a year, according to the National Weather Service. Also, this year's storms seem to be unusually powerful.

But like someone who has lost all his worldly possessions to a whirlwind, meteorologists cannot

explain exactly why this is happening.

"There are active years and we don't particularly understand why," said research meteorologist Harold Brooks at the National Severe Storms Lab in Norman, Okla.

Over the weekend, an extraordinarily powerful twister ripped

Glitch delays plan for maneuvering Mars lander arm

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A glitch with a Mars orbiter relaying commands from Earth delayed plans for the Phoenix Mars Lander's second day of activities on Tuesday, NASA officials said.

The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter turned its UHF radio off, possibly because of a cosmic ray, cutting off communications with the lander, said Fuk Li, manager of the Mars exploration program for NASA's Jet Propulsion

Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

But Li and others said it is not a significant problem.

"All this is a one-day hiccup in being able to move the arm around, so it's no big deal," said Ed Sediwy, space program for Lockheed-Martin Corp. in Denver.

Li said the orbiter was programmed to respond as it did, but that orbiter team members were trying to get the radio back on. It has

Iowa tornado is strongest in 32 years

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—The National Weather Service says a deadly tornado that leveled half a town in northeast Iowa was the state's strongest twister in 32 years.

The tornado tore through Parkersburg and nearby towns on Sunday, killing seven people and destroying neighborhoods with winds up to 205 mph.

The tornado was the strongest in the United States since May 4, 2007, when a twister flattened Greensburg, Kan., killing 11 people. Both tornadoes were ranked at EF5, the top of the weather service's scale.

Iowa's last EF5 tornado was in June 1976 in the central Iowa town of Jordan. No one was injured.

apart Parkersburg, Iowa, destroying more than 350 homes in the town of about 1,000 residents, said Gov. Chet Culver. At least four people were killed there. Among the buildings destroyed were City Hall, the high school, and the lone grocery store and gas station. Some of those killed were in basements.

Mars lander arm

a second radio aboard that might be used instead, though reprogramming would be needed.

A second orbiter, the Mars Odyssey, is to be the primary relay for returning data to Earth from the lander, which is parked in a valley in Mars' northern arctic region.

If necessary, the Odyssey will do double duty, relaying commands to the lander as well as taking up the earthbound information.



TRAIN-TRUCK COLLISION

The mangled and charred front of the City of New Orleans Amtrak passenger train rests down the track from where it collided with a garbage truck Tuesday afternoon May 27, 2008 in Crystal Springs, Miss. injuring at least seven people, authorities said. Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said a fire broke out after the collision, damaging the engine. The train's final car, which was empty, left the track. The estimated 100 passengers aboard the southbound City of New Orleans train were moved to a nearby school and were to be taken to their destinations by bus, Magliari said.

Asia

China evacuates village due to flood threat

MIANYANG, China (AP)—About 80,000 people were evacuated Tuesday from downstream of an unstable earthquake-created dam that is threatening to collapse, and troops rushed to carve a trench to drain the water before it floods the valley.

The threat of flooding from dozens of lakes swelling behind walls of mud and rubble that have plugged narrow valleys in parts of the disaster zone is adding a new worry for millions of survivors.

More than 30 villages were emptied and the people were being sent to camps like the one outside Jiangyou, where an Associated Press reporter saw 12-15 people crammed into each of about 40 government-issued tents pitched on a hillside overlooking the river.

"We were told that so far it is the safest place for us to stay if the dam of the lake crashes," said Liu Yuhua, whose village of Huangshi was one of those emptied. "But we will have to move farther uphill if the situation turns out to be worse."

Troops on Tuesday used explosives to blow up tree stumps that were hampering heavy-duty excavators that were airlifted by helicopter in recent days to the newly formed Tangjiashan lake near the town of Beichuan, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The magnitude-7.9 quake that struck Sichuan province May 12 sent a mass of dirt and rocks tumbling in the valley about two miles above the town in a spot not reached by roads, plugging a river that is now forming the lake.

Elsewhere in the region, workers also used explosives to level some buildings that were left teetering by the quake—a further sign that officials have stopped rescue and recovery efforts in some places.

The number of deaths from the quake climbed toward an expected toll of 80,000 or more. China's Cabinet said Tuesday that 67,183 people were confirmed killed, with 20,790 still missing.

Myanmar's junta keeps democracy activist locked up

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's military regime on Tuesday extended the house arrest of democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi, refusing to bow to international pressure of the sort that persuaded the generals to let in foreign help for cyclone victims.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace laureate who has been detained for more than 12 of the past 18 years, had her detention extended by one year, said a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Her detention has long been the symbol of the regime's heavy-handed intolerance of democratic opposition to its rule, and there is a worldwide campaign lobbying for her release.

President Bush said he was "deeply troubled" by the extension of Suu Kyi's house arrest but stressed that the U.S. would continue to provide aid for Myanmar's cyclone survivors.

British Foreign Secretary David Milliband said he was "was saddened, if not surprised," by the decision to keep her detained.

"While our immediate focus is on relieving the suffering caused by the recent cyclone, restoration of democracy in Burma is still vital for that country's



A Chinese man carries a mattress he removed from a destroyed apartment in Yingxiu in Wenchuan County of southwest China's Sichuan province Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

Chinese premier shows up on Facebook

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao now has a Facebook page.

It's not known who set up the profile that now features Wen's official government photo, but it's clear the premier has some fans—with more than 13,000 "supporters" as of Wednesday.

The Chinese government doesn't have the most approachable reputation, but Wen's been praised for his quick and sympathetic response to the May 12 earthquake in central China that's killed more than 67,000 people.

"This is Grandpa Wen Jiabao, hang on child, we will rescue you!" he shouted at one point to a student trapped in the rubble, state media reported.

His Facebook page was set up two days after the quake. It's full of supportive comments and photos of him walking

through the rubble and comforting victims.

"I love you, oh my God," Tina Wong of Hong Kong posted.

"A model Premier for the world!" Sukant Chandan of London added.

"It's so great 2 see u here!" Celeste Lee of China said.

The 66-year-old Wen's ability to show up quickly at the site of a disaster—coal mine explosions, snowstorm-blocked railways—and look sympathetic has made him the often distant-seeming Chinese leadership's most popular figure.

Just hours after the 7.9-magnitude quake hit Sichuan province, he was on the scene with a bullhorn. Television cameras followed him for days as he tried to comfort children and put on a hard hat to enter a collapsed building.

Bombs, attacks kill 24 in Afghanistan



In this Nov. 9, 2007, file photo, released by Myanmar News Agency, Myanmar's detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

long-term future," Milliband said.

The extension of Suu Kyi's detention came as Myanmar, also known as Burma, was still fending off worldwide criticism for its inadequate aid effort after Cyclone Nargis.

The storm left an estimated 2.4 million people in desperate need of food, shelter and medical care, according to the United Nations. The government

says the deluge killed 78,000 people and left 56,000 missing.

Only after intense international pressure and a personal appeal by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who flew to Myanmar last week for talks with the junta's chief, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, did the government relent and agree to let foreign relief workers into the Irrawaddy River delta, the area hit hardest by the cyclone.

"International aid workers are starting to move to the delta," Richard Horsey, a spokesman for the U.N. humanitarian effort, said Tuesday. Helicopters also began shuttling high-energy biscuits and ready-to-eat meals into the hardest hit area Tuesday, he said in Bangkok, Thailand.

Myanmar's leaders are leery of foreign aid workers and international agencies because they fear an influx of outsiders could undermine their control. The junta is also hesitant to have its people see aid coming directly from countries such as the United States, which it has long treated as a hostile power seeking to invade or colonize.

But the Suu Kyi, daughter of the country's martyred independence leader, Gen. Aung San, has long been regarded by the generals as the biggest threat to their power.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Roadside bombings and insurgent attacks

Tuesday killed 24 people in Afghanistan, including 13 police officers, while U.S.-led coalition operations killed several militants, officials said.

In southern Kandahar province, Taliban insurgents killed nine police in a two-pronged attack before dawn in Shorabak district, said provincial police chief Sayed Agha Saqib.

Insurgents first attacked a police checkpoint, killing five officers, Saqib said. Two roadside bombs then hit two vehicles carrying police reinforcements, killing four more officers and wounding three.

Another roadside bomb in Logar province, south of Kabul, killed four police, said deputy police chief Abdul Majid Latifi.

Militants regularly target the country's fledgling police force, which is seen as weaker than the better-trained and equipped Afghan army. At least 72 police officers were killed in insurgent ambushes and bombings in April alone.

More than 900 policemen were among the 8,000 people killed last year. The high death toll comes despite some \$4 billion spent by the U.S. to train and equip the police in the last three years.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nepal swears in new assembly

KATMANDU (AP)—Nepal stood on the brink of becoming the world's newest republic Tuesday as an assembly charged with ending 239 years of royal rule was sworn in amid tight security. But with the world's last Hindu king still in the pink-hued, 1970s-era concrete palace that dominates central Katmandu, political leaders were threatening to remove him by force. "He has no choice, but if he refuses to leave the palace, we will use the law to force him out of there," Baburam Bhattarai, the deputy leader of the Maoists, Nepal's former rebels, told The Associated Press. Tuesday's swearing in of 575 lawmakers—another 26 are to be appointed later—marked a major step in the peace process that ended the insurgency and the culmination of the Maoists' transformation from a rebel army into a political force.

Pakistan province demanding frugal wedding parties

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Punjab province's newly elected leaders announced that starting this month they would strictly enforce an often ignored law that limits wedding feasts to one main dish—a measure welcomed by Pakistanis struggling with a sagging economy and rising prices. Pakistan's economy is slowing, and increases in global food costs have made matters worse. The price of a staple like rice has soared 150 percent the past year and wheat flour is in short supply. Middle-class Pakistanis must devote more of their incomes to basics, while the poor struggle to get by. It was poor families the national government set out to help by enacting a law in the 1990s limiting wedding meals, giving them a way to avoid a cultural burden without feeling humiliated.

Taiwan party chief meets top Chinese leader

BEIJING (AP)—The leader of Taiwan's new ruling party met Tuesday with a senior Communist Party official in Beijing, who called for the rivals to peacefully develop their ties through dialogue. Wu Poh-hsiung's six-day visit to promote economic engagement came on China's invitation. The chairman of Taiwan's Nationalist Party arrived Tuesday in Beijing for discussions with Jia Qinglin, the fourth-most-powerful person in the Communist Party. Though in the past Beijing has threatened to attack Taiwan if the self-ruled island seeks a permanent break, the rhetoric has become decidedly more amiable since Nationalist Ma Ying-jeou took office as Taiwan's president less than a week ago.

US, NKorea discuss nuclear declaration

BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. and North Korea began talks Tuesday on the communist nation's delayed nuclear declaration and the American political concessions it will receive in return, including Pyongyang's long-sought goal of being removed from a U.S. terrorism blacklist. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said he met with his North Korean counterpart, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, to lay out the agenda for more detailed negotiations Wednesday in the Chinese capital. Hill was guarded about prospects for progress at this week's talks—his first encounter with Kim since early April when the two met in Singapore—but said their first meeting of just under an hour was "very good."

World

Amnesty condemns US, China in report

LONDON (AP)—The United States is shirking its duty to provide the world with moral leadership and China is letting its business interests trump human rights concerns in Myanmar and Sudan, a human rights group said Wednesday.

Amnesty International's annual report on the state of the world's human rights accused

the U.S. of failing to provide a moral compass for its international peers, a long-standing complaint the London-based group has against the North American superpower.

This year it also criticized the U.S. for supporting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf last November when he imposed a state of emergency, clamped down on

the media and sacked judges.

"As the world's most powerful state, the USA sets the standard for government behavior globally," the report said. It charged that the U.S. "had distinguished itself in recent years through its defiance of international law."

As in the past, the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay came in for criticism. Irene Khan,

Amnesty's secretary-general, appealed for the American president elected in November to announce the jail's closure on Dec. 10, 2008, the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

The State Department had no immediate comment on the report, but said the U.S. was justified in detaining enemy combatants at Guantanamo to prevent

them from returning to the battlefield. The State Department has previously said Amnesty uses the U.S. as "a convenient ideological punching bag."

Emerging power China came in for a few punches, too. The report said China had continued shipping weapons to Sudan in defiance of a U.N. arms embargo and traded with abusive govern-

ments like Myanmar and Zimbabwe. It said that China's media censorship remains in place and that the government continues to persecute rights activists.

The report also accused China of expanding its "re-education through labor" program, which allows the government to arrest people and sentence them to a manual labor without trial.

American testifies he gave cash to Olmert

JERUSALEM (AP)—A Jewish-American businessman testified Tuesday in a corruption probe that threatens to bring down Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, saying he handed cash-stuffed envelopes to the Israeli politician he described as a bon vivant with a penchant for fancy hotels, fine cigars and first-class travel.

Morris Talansky's testimony offered an unflattering portrait of Olmert just as the already unpopular Israeli leader seeks to rally reluctant public support for peace talks with Syria and the Palestinians.

Police suspect Olmert illicitly took up to \$500,000 from Talansky in illegal campaign contribu-



In this file photo taken in the summer of 2003 in New York City, American businessman Moshe Talansky, right, stands with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

tions or bribes before becoming prime minister in 2006. Olmert, who denies wrongdoing, says the funds were legal contributions but has promised to step down if indicted.

Legal affairs analyst Moshe Negbi said Talansky's testimony suggests Olmert could face charges of bribery and breach of trust. "I don't think that there were ever such grave suspicions against a prime minister in Israel," Negbi said.

Olmert's lawyer Eli Zohar labeled Talansky's testimony "twisted" and said the truth would be revealed in the cross-examination, which is set for July 17.

"In general, we're saying that

we're not talking about criminal activity whatsoever," he said.

Olmert, whom police have questioned twice, had no comment on the testimony.

Israel TV said late Tuesday that Defense Minister Ehud Barak, leader of the Labor Party, Olmert's main partner in the governing coalition, was considering calling on Olmert to suspend himself from office or resign. Opposition politicians called publicly for his resignation.

Talansky told the court he turned over about \$150,000 of his own money to Olmert, directly and through political aides, at meetings in New York and Jerusalem over a 15-year period.

Twins who were separated at birth suing for damages

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Spanish twins who were separated at birth through a hospital error—then reunited as adults through a fluke—are suing for millions in damages, as is a third woman who grew up thinking, erroneously, that she was one of the twins, a lawyer said Tuesday.

The real twins finally met each other in 2001. The case has been working its way through the courts since 2004. A decision is expected soon on whether the three women deserve damages, said Sebastian Socorro Perdomo, a lawyer for one of the twins.

He would not release the names of any of the women, who are all 35 years old.

Socorro Perdomo said in an interview that his client is seeking \$4.7 million from the government of the Canary Islands, where the error occurred in 1973 in the city of Las Palmas. The other two women are also suing, he said.

He said his client was taken out of her crib as her twin sister lay in one right next to her, mistakenly replaced by another baby girl, and ultimately raised by the family of that child.

The other two girls were

brought up in the mistaken belief they were twin sisters.

"It does not take a lot of effort to put yourself in the position of any of these people in order to understand the damage that has been done," Socorro Perdomo said.

Of the three, he said his client—taken away from her twin sister and real family—is the most devastated. "Since this discovery, her world has turned a bit upside down," he said.

"The first right of any child is the right to their own personal and family identity," he said. "In this case, that right has been violated."

The error emerged a generation later, through a chance encounter at a clothing store in Las Palmas.

A friend of Socorro Perdomo's client worked in the shop. When a woman who was the spitting image of that client came in and failed to recognize the employee, the clerk was dumbfounded.

When the dead ringer came by the store a second time, the clerk began to put two and two together and arranged for the women to meet.

DNA tests proved they were identical twins, the lawyer said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ban promises UN probe of sex abuse by peacekeepers

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said Tuesday the United Nations will investigate allegations by a leading children's charity that U.N. peacekeepers are involved in widespread sexual abuse of children. The report by Save the Children UK, based on field research in southern Sudan, Ivory Coast and Haiti, describes a litany of sexual crimes committed by peacekeepers and international relief workers against children as young as 6. It said some children were denied food aid unless they granted sexual favors; others were forced to have sex or to take part in child pornography; many more were subjected to improper touching or kissing.

Red Cross warns of food riots

GENEVA (AP)—The Red Cross warned Tuesday of a possible surge in "food-related violence" because of soaring prices that are increasing hunger around the world. Most of the debate surrounding the global food crisis has focused on boosting aid to poorer countries, but there is also concern about the potential for violence as people become desperate for food, said Jakob Kellenberger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Kellenberger, whose agency serves as the guardian of the Geneva Conventions on the rules of war, said fallout from rising prices has already sparked violence, alluding to food riots that erupted in Haiti, Egypt and Somalia. The Red Cross would

have to shoulder a big responsibility for those affected by armed conflict, Kellenberger said.

Lebanon majority backs Saniora for PM

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Leaders of parliament's pro-Western majority decided late Tuesday to back Fuad Saniora to remain as Lebanon's prime minister in the new unity Cabinet being formed with the Hezbollah-led opposition, a government official said. The move was seen as a way for the beleaguered majority to display some independence after being forced into conceding the Syrian-supported Hezbollah and its allies veto power over government decisions and was not expected to undermine the deal. Parliament Speaker Nabih Ber-

ri, who is aligned with the opposition, said earlier this week that he would respect the majority's choice for prime minister.

Prince Charles has non-cancerous growth removed

LONDON (AP)—A royal spokesman says Prince Charles has had a small non-cancerous growth removed from his face. A spokesman at Charles' official residence, Clarence House, said Friday that the operation was a minor and routine procedure. Charles had the growth removed from the side of his nose late Thursday afternoon. He had covered up the scar with a small white bandage on the bridge of his nose during a tree-planting ceremony Friday at his country home in Highgrove.

Bahamas police find 4 bodies at sea

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Police responding to reports of a capsized speedboat discovered the bodies of four people believed to be Haitian migrants in bloody, shark-infested waters between Florida and the Bahamas, authorities said Tuesday.

Sharks devoured one of the bodies in front of rescuers. The amount of blood near the 27-foot (8-meter) boat suggests there were other victims whose bodies were not recovered, Bahamas police spokesman Basil Rahming said.

Thousands of Haitians leave their impoverished homeland on rickety, overcrowded boats each year in hopes of reaching the U.S. or other islands. Last month, at least 20 died when their boat capsized on a trip from Nassau, Bahamas, to Florida.

The capsized boat, which was found Sunday about 13 miles (21 kilometers) west of Grand Bahama island, was apparently aiming for the U.S. coast before it capsized in rough water, Rahming said.

A U.S. tourist vessel that was the first to arrive after the Coast Guard reported the overturned boat discovered a "horrific" scene, said Laine Sheridan, operations director for the Riviera Beach, Florida-based Gulf Stream Eagle tourist boat.

"What appeared to be two or three lifejackets tangled in some fishing line actually ended up being dead passengers," Sheridan said.

He said crew member Jonathan Rose, 26, jumped into the water and recovered one body but retreated because there were tiger sharks circling in the water. Rose went back in with another crew member to protect him from the sharks and dove down to the boat's cabin, where he found two more bodies.



GERMAN MEMORIAL

A man looks at a video screen inside the Memorial for the homosexual victims of persecution by the Nazi regime, in Berlin, Germany, Tuesday, May 27, 2008. Germany unveiled Tuesday the memorial, which also aims to address ongoing discrimination by confronting visitors with an image of a same-sex couple kissing. The memorial—a sloping gray concrete slab on the edge of Berlin's Tiergarten park—echoes the vast field of smaller slabs that make up Germany's memorial to Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Environment

Get a spotless home, without harsh chemicals

Many of us clean our homes regularly and sometimes even have numerous 'spring cleaning' activities, not just in the spring time, but throughout the year so that our home is safe for our family. Unfortunately, many conventional cleaning products are loaded with chemical fragrances and toxic cleansing agents like bleach, ammonia and alcohol. These can be harmful, possibly even fatal, if ingested (even through inhalation). Precious little research has been done on the dangers of long-term exposure to residues of toxic cleaning products, but scientists do know that children, the elderly, asthma sufferers and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk.

Try to avoid cleaners that contain triclosan or other man-made antibiotics. For day-to-day cleaning you don't need them, and you don't want to contribute to antibiotic resistance.

So how should you get everything looking spic and span, and still protect indoor air quality and your family's health?



Instead of conventional cleaning products, try a brand made from more natural ingredients. Many are becoming

much more widely available, and some big names are entering the green market.

Rely more on elbow grease and less on chemicals or specialized products. Get the whole family involved! Instead of chemical carpet treatments, take removable rugs outside and beat them clean. A little cleaner and a lot of scrubbing often works as well as dousing in solvents.

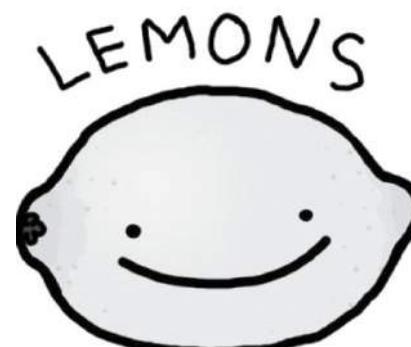
If you buy pre-made cleaning products, choose larger sizes to reduce packaging, and try to pick brands in recyclable containers.

To make your own cleaners for countertops and tile, sprinkle on baking soda and scrub clean (add kosher salt for tough grime).

Use vinegar and lemon juice on stains, mildew and grease.

For windows and mirrors, dilute 2 tablespoons of white vinegar with a gallon of water. Spray on, then wipe clean with newspaper.

Air everything out! Volatile organic compounds off-gas from plastics and man-made fibers, and dust and



are pretty good.

molds can build up. Sunlight and wind truly are great natural cleaners!

Consumers do need to exercise caution when choosing a new cleaning product. Natural does not always mean nontoxic. When reading labels, look for plant-based ingredients like coconut, eucalyptus, rosemary or sage.

There are also many online sources to offer additional tips on safe, nontoxic cleaning solutions.

Source: *our planet E/the Environmental Magazine*

DID YOU KNOW?

Vinegar: not just for salad!



Toilet bowl cleaner – Stubborn stains can be removed from the toilet by spraying them with white distilled vinegar and brushing vigorously. The bowl may be deodorized by adding 3 cups of white distilled vinegar. Allow it to remain for a half hour, then flush.

Unclog the showerhead – Corrosion may be removed from showerheads or faucets by soaking them in diluted white distilled vinegar overnight.

This may be easily accomplished by saturating a terry cloth towel in vinegar and wrapping it around the showerhead or faucet.

Discourage ants – Spray undiluted white distilled vinegar outside doorways and windowsills, around appliances and wherever you find the pests coming in.

Get rid of fruit flies – Set out a small dish of undiluted white distilled vinegar.

Bumper stickers – You can remove bumper stickers by repeatedly wiping the sticker with white distilled vinegar until it is soaked. In a few minutes, it should peel off easily. Test on a small invisible area of the car to ensure there will be no damage to the paint.

Running vinegar between your hands can make onion odor disappear.

Brush softener – Soak the paintbrush in hot white distilled vinegar, and then wash out with warm, sudsy water. This works well with makeup brushes too.

Furniture – Mix olive oil and vinegar in a one-to-one ratio and polish with a soft cloth. Try in an inconspicuous place first.

Cleaner for Gold Jewelry – Use one cup apple cider vinegar and submerge solid gold jewelry item for 15 minutes. Remove and dry with cloth.

Worn DVDs – If you have a worn DVD that has begun to stick or suffers from the occasional freeze-frame, wipe it down with white distilled vinegar applied to a soft cloth. Ensure the DVD is completely dry before reinserting in the DVD player.

Source: <http://www.versatilevinegar.org> and <http://www.vinegartips.com>

Impact of grass fires on ecology



Hi it's me CoCo!

With the many grass fires occurring in our islands I wanted share that this loss of vegetation—even if it is only grass—can lead to additional losses and impacts.

These impacts include sedimentation, turbidity and reduced water quality.

Vegetation whether grass or trees or yes, even 'tagantagan', through their roots, holds soil in place. Sediment, with the help of rain storms, makes its way to our lagoon, increasing its turbidity or cloudiness, and does not allow as much light to penetrate the

water. While high levels of turbidity for a short period of time (such as erosion caused by wildfires) may not be significant, aquatic organisms are generally affected. Plants still need sunlight in order to perform photosynthesis.

The gills of aquatic animals have the potential to become clogged from the sediments. Sediment that settles to the bottom can lead to the suffocation of fish eggs and benthic macro invertebrates and can cause the destruction of spawning substrate.

Also, as the sediment settles, it can bury corals or cause them to expend a

large amount of energy keeping their surfaces clean.

This is why we should take preventive measures to manage erosion and sedimentation. Land clearing activities can be controlled and is regulated. While wildfires can be controlled, it is not as easy, especially for areas that are uninhabited or out of the way.

None of us like the look of 'dirty' water, so when forest or grass fires occur, it's a call for some maintaining.

How can you help? Plant a tree or seedlings in As Matuis, Papau Beach, Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya, Wireless area. (CoCo)

MINA sets general membership meeting

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance will be holding its annual 2008 general membership meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in the Azucena Room this Friday, May 30, starting at 6pm. We will be hav-

ing an overall presentation of our activities that have happened in the past year and elect new board members. There will be a free dinner buffet for all active MINA members!

For those members who have let their paid membership lapse or expire, there will be an opportunity to renew your membership. And.... for those who would like to join "on the spot" will be able to do so.

MINA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the diverse natural resources of the Northern Mariana Islands. MINA's members

come from all walks of life and are tied together by the clear understanding that we, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, have the right and responsibility to act as stewards of our own natural inheritance. MINA currently has a nine (9) member board of directors and more than 90 active individual and business members.

For those people interested in joining please come. To find out more information regarding what MINA is all about and/or to RSVP for the dinner meeting call Chuck Sayon, Interim MINA executive director at 322-7208. (MINA)

ONGOING EVENTS

Every Friday at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, 3-4:30pm, Story Hour, Learn about the Environment and the Micronesia Challenge.

Upcoming Sat, June 21 – 8am-4pm, residential used oil collection at the Lower Base Transfer Station. FREE!

Life & Style

James Bond returns in new novel 'Devil May Care'

LONDON (AP)—A catsuited model in stiletto heels strode the deck of a British warship with Royal Navy helicopters roaring overhead. It was not a bout of naval hijinks, but the year's most-hyped literary event—the publication of a new adventure for super-spy James Bond.

The larger-than-life launch Tuesday of the novel "Devil May Care" proves that 100 years after the birth of 007 creator Ian Fleming, the Bond brand is stronger than ever.

A large crowd of journalists and onlookers gathered to watch model Tuuli Shipster, whose silhouette adorns the cover of the book's British edition, bring the first published copies up the Riv-

er Thames in a military speedboat before unpacking them aboard HMS Exeter, a destroyer moored near Tower Bridge.

"I can remember Uncle Ian's books being delivered wrapped in brown paper and string by a postman on a bicycle," niece Lucy Fleming said as she stood on the destroyer's gunmetal-gray deck. "The Royal Navy has upped the ante a little."

Britain's military appears happy to play up its ties to the fictional spy, who held the rank of Royal Navy commander before going to work for MI6. The navy loaned the Exeter and its 250-strong crew for an elaborate photo opportunity for "Devil May Care," written by

Sebastian Faulks and published to mark Fleming's 100th birthday on Wednesday.

The choice of Faulks—a respected literary novelist whose books include the World War I novel "Birdsong" and the French Resistance saga "Charlotte Gray"—has brought the book serious literary attention, while the promise of sex, spying and exotic locales should help it become a best-seller. The hardcover print run in Britain and the United States is reported to be 400,000 copies.

Fleming, a journalist and wartime intelligence officer who died in 1964, wrote 14 James Bond books. Other writers, including Kingsley Amis

and John Gardner, continued the series into the 21st century, with mixed results. But Faulks' license to thrill, which coincides with actor Daniel Craig's reinvigoration of the Bond film franchise, has generated a renewed sense of excitement.

"We didn't want a thriller writer," said Lucy Fleming, part of a family group that controls the author's estate. "We wanted someone who would read Ian's books and see how he did it." Faulks, she said, "has thought himself into Ian's mind."

Faulks said he even adopted Fleming's writing pace, churning out 2,000 words a day for six weeks. He says the resulting novel is about 80 percent Fleming in style.

The book's publishers—Penguin in Britain, Doubleday in the United States—are keeping its contents under wraps until it hits stores Wednesday. This much is known: the book has a 1960s Cold War setting; there are locations in Paris, Rome and the Middle East; there is torture and there is romance.

Bond aficionados were optimistic the result would be classic 007.

"Sebastian Faulks is the Daniel Craig of Bond authors," said Ajay Chowdhury, editor of the Bond fan magazine Kiss Kiss Bang Bang. "It's about quality." Chowdhury was pleased



Model Tuuli Shipster with author Sebastian Faulks who holds a briefcase with copies of the new James Bond novel 'Devil May Care' at the book's launch in London, Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

to see a renewed focus on the books, which he said "show a deeper side of Bond."

"The Bond films are high school; the Bond books are university," he said.

This is a big year for Bond. In addition to the Fleming centenary, the latest 007 movie, "Quantum of Solace," is due for

release in the fall.

Neither Faulks nor Fleming would speculate on whether "Devil May Care" would itself be filmed.

Faulks said, however, he would not be writing another Bond book.

"One tribute, one centenary, one book," he said.

Sharon Stone: Was China quake 'bad karma'?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sharon Stone's "karma" is having an instant effect on her movie-star status in China.

The 50-year-old actress suggested last week that the devastating May 12 earthquake in China could have been the result of bad karma over the government's treatment of Tibet. That prompted the founder of one of China's biggest cinema chains to say his company would not show her films in his theaters, according to a story in The Hollywood Reporter.

"I'm not happy about the way the Chinese are treating the Tibetans because I don't think anyone should be unkind to anyone else," Stone said Thursday during a Cannes Film Festival red-carpet interview with Hong Kong's Cable Entertainment News. "And then this earthquake and all this stuff happened, and then I thought, is that karma? When you're not nice that the bad things happen to you?"

Ng See-Yuen, founder of the UME Cineplex chain and the chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers, called Stone's comments "inappropriate," adding that actors should not bring personal politics to comments about a natural disaster that has left five million Chinese homeless, according to

ing at least one Chinese Web site devoted solely to disparaging her comments.

An after-hours phone call and email to a representative for Stone were not immediately returned Tuesday night.

"To Sharon Stone's comment, it's unlikely that we will respond," said a woman who answered the phone at the Foreign Ministry in Beijing. She refused to give her name or position.

According to the Web-based database imdb.com, Stone has at least four movies coming up between now and 2010, including "Streets of Blood," "Five Dollars a Day" and "The Year of Getting to Know Us."



In this May 22, 2008 file photo, American actress Sharon Stone speaks, during the amfAR's annual Cinema Against AIDS 2008 benefit in Mougins, southern France.

Brigida B. "Aida" Solomon, 71,

a Saipan resident died due to complications of obstructive pulmonary failure on May 23, 2008 at the Commonwealth Health Center. Aida was born on February 01, 1937 in Pangasinan, Philippines.

She moved to Saipan in 1989 and went on to run the family business – Good Earth Enterprise.

Preceded in death she now joins her:

Husband: Pablo L. Solomon

Mother: Silvestra Pasana

Father: Paulino Bambalan

Siblings: Six of her eight brothers and sisters

She will always live in the hearts of her...

Children

Alma B. Solomon (Saipan)

Maria S. Monton (Saipan)

Roberto G. Solomon (Vancouver, Canada)

Grandchildren

Alan S. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)

Lever S. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)

John S. Solomon (Lacey, Washington)

Jeanine G. Solomon (Vancouver, Canada)

Jessica G. Solomon (Vancouver, Canada)

Donna Marie S. Monton (Saipan)

Jefferson S. Monton (Saipan)

Great Grandchildren

Tiffany Amber M. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)

Zachary Ethan M. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)

Natalie M. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)

Along with close relatives and beloved friends.

Public viewing will be held Friday, May 30, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the **Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness**, Gualo Rai, and will be continued by funeral discourse from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Burial will follow immediately at the **Tanapag Public Cemetery**.

Germany's Tokio Hotel makes teens swoon

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Move over Jonas Brothers, the Kaulitz twins are moving in.

The 18-year-old Kaulitz brothers comprise half of Tokio Hotel, a German glam-pop quartet that is creating Beatles-like hysteria among the teen set in their native land. They've sold close to 3 million CDs and DVDs in their country, and are hoping to replicate that rabid fan base in the United States.

"They're the stepping stone between the tween stuff and My Chemical Romance," says Andrew Gyger, senior product manager for Virgin Entertainment Group, a few days after the foursome appeared at Virgin's Times Square store in New York in May to promote its English-language album, "Scream."

"The in-store was massive in terms of sales and the amount of girls that showed up," Gyger says, relaying stories of at least one girl fainting and screaming teens lining up around the block for the event. "The band seems to have come out of nowhere."

Actually, Tokio Hotel came out of the Internet. A YouTube search shows 123,000 video listings compared to 88,100 for the Jonas Bros. or 21,000 for a grizzled veteran like Bruce Springsteen. To further sate their young fans' appetite, for the last six months the band has produced weekly episodes of Tokio Hotel TV for its U.S. Web site.

For Tokio Hotel, the visual is as vital as the vocals and is propelled by lead singer Bill Kaulitz's anime look: straightened, teased black hair; heavy eye makeup that accentuates his delicate, androgynous, doll-like features; chain necklaces and vintage rock and roll T-shirts. He's so thin he appears almost one dimensional on stage, adding to the cartoon-like appeal. But to hear him tell it, his look comes by way of Transylvania, not Japan.



Tokio Hotel band members, from left, Gustav Schafer, Tom Kaulitz, Bill Kaulitz and Georg Listing pose before their concert at the Avalon Hollywood club in Los Angeles, Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

When he was 10, Bill Kaulitz dressed as a vampire for Halloween and adopted the styling year-round.

"After that, I started to color my hair and polish my nails. I started to wear makeup and stuff. I'd never heard of (anime)," Bill Kaulitz said in an interview at the Avalon Hollywood before to the group's sold-out show in Los Angeles. He, his brother, bassist Georg Listing, 20, and drummer Gustav Schafer, 19, are squashed together in a leather booth in the lounge one floor above the Avalon stage.

Both he and Tom speak very good, albeit heavily accented, English, although an interpreter stands by in case any translation is needed.

Tom Kaulitz, the older brother by 10 minutes ("A lot of people think Bill is the boss, but I am the boss," he laughs), developed his hip-hop/dreads look when he was seven or eight, in part as a way to differentiate himself from his identical twin. "When we were six, we looked the same," Tom Kaulitz said. "We had sweat shirts with (the

names) Bill and Tom so that teachers had a chance to know who's who."

The Kaulitz brothers began playing guitar when they were seven - the instruments were gifts from their musician step-father. By the time they were in their mid-teens, they were playing in clubs, often to less than five people, and Listing and Schafer had joined the band.

Their mother's backing was not only desired, but vital: "We needed the support of our parents because we had no car, no money," Bill Kaulitz says.

Mom has long since stopped driving the band to gigs; they have people who do that for them now as they have accumulated a team during their meteoric rise. The group's first single, "Through the Monsoon," went to No. 1 in Germany in 2005, a pair of No. 1 albums and sold-out European tours followed.

The fan frenzy in Germany has reached epic proportions, such as when a group of teen girls delivered a fan letter that was more than seven miles long. After seeing a young fan

repeatedly at shows in different cities, the band later learned that she was a runaway who had left home to follow the group. "It's still crazy to us," Bill Kaulitz says of the distaff attention.

After witnessing the spectacle at the band's February appearance at New York's Gramercy Theatre, Amy Doyle, MTV's senior VP of music and talent, became a convert. "I could not believe the line outside of screaming teen girls," she said. "It reminded me of the audience of the late '90s and 2000 for Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync."

Following that performance, MTV added the video for "Ready, Set, Go" into heavy rotation, as well as highlighted the band online, on mtv2 and on "TRL." Tokio Hotel writes a tour diary for MTV.com, which, Doyle says, had elicited more reader comments than any previous tour diary.

But the band has a long way to go before they reach Backstreet or 'N Sync like sales - since the group's CD was released in May, it has sold just over 23,000 copies. Tokio Hotel's U.S. label, Cherrytree/Interscope, has yet to take the first single, "Monsoon," to radio, but Doyle says

the whole package is the band's selling point.

"Radio always helps, but there's a connection that clearly is made when the audience sees them that you can't connect with just a song; fans are making an emotional connection."

Indeed, at the Avalon show that evening, teenage girls packed up against the stage so tightly that security guards

started a regular procession of lifting them over the railing as several teen become overcome by the nearness of their heroes and the pressure of those pushing behind them.

"It's so cool that we have fans already here. But we are at the beginning," Bill Kaulitz. "We really want to be successful in America, we really want to try it. There are not so many German bands who get the chance to come to America to play."

Tokio Hotel already has Madison Square Garden in its sights, but also knows it had to put in the footwork. On this trip, they went to the vaunted venue; not to perform, but to see Jay-Z and Mary J. Blige.

"It's a dream to play there," Tom Kaulitz says, shaking his head up and down. "Maybe in two years. You need goals in your life."

Ex-Kelly employee testifies singer appears on sex tape

CHICAGO (AP)—A former employee of R. Kelly testified Tuesday that she was "110 percent sure" the Grammy-winning R&B singer appeared with an underage girl on a sex tape at the center of his child pornography trial.



R. Kelly

Lindsey Perryman, who said she worked as a record producer and personal assistant to the singer and his family off and on from 2000-2007, told jurors that she first saw the tape in December 2007, after being approached by prosecutors.

At that time, she said, she was not sure it was Kelly on the video and didn't want to believe it because he was a great boss and "very, very good to me."

"I was in shock and I wanted to be 110 percent sure," so looked at an album cover

with Kelly on it before viewing the videotape a second time, Perryman said. She said she then was sure it was Kelly; she also identified the alleged victim, who had visited Kelly's studio.

Kelly, 41, is charged with 14 counts of child pornography for allegedly videotaping himself having sex with an underage girl. He has pleaded not guilty and faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Kelly's attorneys have said he is not on the tape, even noting that the singer has a mole on his back and the man on the tape does not. The alleged victim, now 23, has denied she is on the tape.

Two other witnesses on Tuesday testified that the female participant on the graphic 27-minute videotape

was the same person prosecutors say was as young as 13 at the time. Prosecutors claim the tape was made between Jan. 1, 1998, and Nov. 1, 2000, and that the young female in the tape was born in September 1984.

Tjada Burnett, a family friend of the alleged victim, said she recognized the female participant by her "cheeks, her nose, her facial structure," and said she could have been about 12 or 13 years old at the time the tape was made.

Under cross-examination, a defense attorney asked Burnett whether the alleged victim wore braces and showed the jury a photo in which she appeared to be wearing braces.

Burnett testified that the alleged victim had braces sometime between 1997 and 1999, and acknowledged she would have had the braces after the tape was made.

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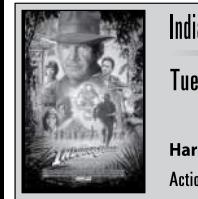
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NOW SHOWING



Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

Synopsis

Tues - Thurs 4:25 7:15

Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett

Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Set in the desert Southwest in 1957—at the height of the Cold War—Indy and his sidekick Mac have barely escaped a close scrape with nefarious Soviet agents on a remote airfield. Now, Professor Jones has returned home to Marshall College—only to find things have gone from bad to worse. His close friend and dean of the college explains that Indy's recent activities have made him the object of suspicion, and that the government has put pressure on the university to fire him.



Iron Man

Synopsis

Tues - Thurs 4:00 7:25

Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow

Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

As CEO of Stark Industries, the U.S. Government's top weapons contractor, billionaire industrialist and genius inventor Tony Stark has achieved celebrity status by protecting American interests around the globe for decades. Tony's carefree lifestyle is forever changed when his convoy is attacked following a weapons test he oversees and he is held hostage by a group of insurgents. Injured by life-threatening shrapnel embedded near his already weakened heart, Tony is ordered to build a devastating weapon for Raza, the mysterious leader of the insurgents.



Speed Racer

Synopsis

Tues - Thurs 4:10 7:00

Emile Hirsch, Susan Sarandon

Action Adventure • Rated PG

Hurtling down the track, careening around, over and through the competition, Speed Racer is a natural behind the wheel. Born to race cars, Speed is aggressive, instinctive and, most of all, fearless. His only real competition is the memory of the brother he idolized—the legendary Rex Racer—whose death in a race has left behind a legacy that Speed is driven to fulfill. Speed is loyal to the family racing business, led by his father, Pops Racer, the designer of Speed's thundering Mach 5.



Forbidden Kingdom

Synopsis

Tues - Thurs 4:30 7:20

Jet Li, Jackie Chan

Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

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Under cross-examination, a defense attorney asked Burnett whether the alleged victim wore braces and showed the jury a photo in which she appeared to be wearing braces.

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Radiohead revels in freedom

WASHINGTON (AP)—The breakthrough for Radiohead on “Reckoner” - a song that underwent multiple incarnations on its way to “In Rainbows” - came by way of what Jonny Greenwood calls a “big percussion fest.”

Recording in an English country house, all five members of the group make a loud, cathartic racket - a habit-busting trick the band has practiced since primary school, says bassist Colin Greenwood.

“And I’m happy to say that success hasn’t changed us at all,” joked Jonny Greenwood, who would rather leave the percussion to Phil Selway’s drums and Thom Yorke’s rhythm guitar.

Whether through the primal release of a “big percussion fest” or by severing ties with its record label, Radiohead is giving the distinct impression of a band that has exorcised something.

Since self-releasing “In Rainbows” as a pay-what-you-want digital download last fall, Radiohead has moved quickly with the tilt of innovation. They surprised fans with intimate webcasts; they offered one track, “Nude,” in stripped down audio pieces for anyone to remix; they held a surprise concert so crowded that police insisted they move along.

Bronze Fonz to be dedicated in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Downtown Milwaukee will soon have a permanent reminder of the “Happy Days” television show.

A bronze statue of Arthur “Fonzie” Fonzarelli, played

by Henry Winkler, will be dedicated Aug. 19 along the Milwaukee River, V I S I T Milwaukee announced Tuesday.

“Happy Days,” which was set in Milwaukee, aired from 1974 to 1984.

Most of the show’s stars are expected to attend the ceremony, including Winkler, Marion Ross, Tom Bosley and the show’s creator, Garry Marshall. Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams from “Laverne & Shirley,” a spinoff of “Happy Days,” also are expected to attend.

David Cook dates ex-‘Idol’ contestant



Cook

NEW YORK (AP)—David Cook says he’s dating an “American Idol” alum. The newly crowned “Idol” winner said Tuesday on “Live With Regis and Kelly” that he recently had a dinner date with former “Idol” contestant Kimberly Caldwell.

Cook, 25, said he met Caldwell through the show. When asked if he had a good time, Cook replied: “I did. We’ll probably hang out again. So

we’ll see.”

Caldwell, 26, appeared on the second season of the top-rated Fox singing competition.

Cook, from Blue Springs, Mo., defeated 17-year-old David Archuleta last week in a landslide victory. The rocker became the heartthrob of the seventh season around the time he restyled his hair and displayed more confidence onstage.

Gandolfini selling ‘Sopranos’ wardrobe for charity

NEW YORK (AP)—Tony Soprano is shedding his wardrobe for charity. James Gandolfini, who starred on the hit HBO series, is selling off 24 outfits, including the button-down blue shirt he wore in the opening credits and the bathrobe he donned to fetch the morning newspaper.

Proceeds from the June 25 pop culture auction at Christie’s will go to the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit group that assists severely wounded soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Estimates for the costumes start at \$500.

Gandolfini’s wardrobe, which includes many outfits with the original production tags attached, is expected to bring up to \$36,500.

The actor’s contract allowed him to keep the clothes after the show ended its six-season run last year, Christie’s said. He has authenticated all the outfits in the sale.

A tan cotton bathrobe with lavender trim and “S” insignia on the breast pocket, featured in the pilot when he got the newspaper and fed the ducks in his pool, may bring as much as \$1,500.

The auction house is also offering the blood-splattered costume worn in the scene when Tony is shot by a demented Uncle Junior. Consisting of a black-and-beige short-sleeve polo shirt, white tank top and black pants, the costume could fetch up to \$3,000.

Another 37 costumes worn by other lead “Sopranos” characters, including Paulie Walnuts, Christopher Moltisanti and A.J. Soprano, also are being sold, though the proceeds from those sales will not benefit the Jacksonville, Fla.-based veterans’ organization.

The costumes for the series were designed by Juliet Pelsca, who earned two Emmy nominations and a Costume Designers Guild Award.



AP
This photo supplied by Christie’s auction house shows a costume worn by the character Tony Soprano, played by actor James Gandolfini in HBO’s series “The Sopranos.”



Actress Eva Longoria-Parker works behind the counter at the Wendy’s Old Fashioned Hamburgers restaurant in Corpus Christi, Texas, on Tuesday, May 27, 2008, during a publicity campaign for the second annual “Father’s Day Frosty Weekend.”

Desperate Housewives star dishes up Frostys, fries

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP)—Eva Longoria Parker took time to dish out Frostys and french fries at a Wendy’s on Tuesday. The “Desperate Housewives” star worked the drive-thru at the restaurant to help kick off the Father’s Day Frosty Weekend, an event that donates 50 cents for every Frosty sold to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and its signature program Wendy’s Wonderful Kids.

Longoria Parker worked at Wendy’s from 1991 to 1994, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported in its online edition.

While the current star of *Wisteria Lane* dished up fast food, her husband, Tony Parker of the San Antonio Spurs, was preparing for Game 4 of the Lakers-Spurs matchup in San Antonio.

Pigeons masquerading as doves fly safely home after release

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I couldn’t help but notice the letter you published April 28, regarding releasing doves for events. While it’s true that the birds you mentioned would not survive in the wild, you did not tell the full story regarding dove releases.

The fact is, all over the world, professionals are using pure white homing pigeons for special events. Members of the White Dove Release Professionals follow a code of ethics regarding the safety and care of “rock doves.” The group’s release policy requires that these birds are carefully trained to return quickly and safely home to their well-managed lofts. Upon release, they most often beat their caretakers home.

When properly and ethically done, White Dove Release Professionals can provide a beautiful release. Please let your readers know they can go to www.white-dove-releases.com for further information.

—LISA KNIGHT, NAMPA, IDAHO

DEAR LISA: Apparently that letter and my response ruffled some feathers, so allow me to offer another suggestion regarding dove/pigeon releases: Always make sure to use a reputable company, and that the birds they release are white homing pigeons and not ringneck doves. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: It is too time-consuming and expensive to raise white doves and then throw them to a certain death. Anyone who would release a “true” white dove at an event is an idiot.

Now for some real “education.” White doves released at weddings and special events are not really white doves, but are the larger racing pigeons. Smaller white doves are often displayed in decorative cages. When it’s time to release the birds, the white racing pigeons are substituted and released. The average person doesn’t know the difference, and the pigeons can find their way home over great distances.

—PIGEON/DOVE FANCIER IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR ABBY: I have to admit I never thought twice about the release of white doves either—until I attended the funeral of an acquaintance. As the casket was being lowered into the ground, the family released a white dove to symbolize the spirit of the deceased ascending to heaven. The poor creature was confused and circled the area several times before flying toward a wooded area. At the same time, a large hawk was circling nearby. Thankfully we were all spared witnessing the kill, but I doubt that poor dove, with its snow white feathers, lived to see the next morning.

—MARGO IN ZANESVILLE, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: White pigeons are banded and pedigreed, and are able to survive in the wild if necessary. Sometimes they do become disoriented due to inclement weather, but barring cats, BB guns and hawks, they return home 98 percent of the time.

—BOB IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ABBY: Allow me to inject a dose of reality. Until the invention of the telegraph, homing pigeons were the only reliable form of rapid communication. From the days of King Solomon to G.I. Joe, the pigeon corps was an important unit in every army. We love our birds and take good care of them. The white ringneck dove (much smaller) is the species that “unethical” individuals use for these purposes.

Anyone who would like more information should contact the American Racing Pigeon Union at www.pigeon.org.

—JERRY HOLT, HEAVEN SENT WHITE DOVE RELEASE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

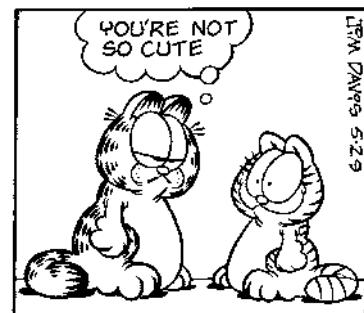


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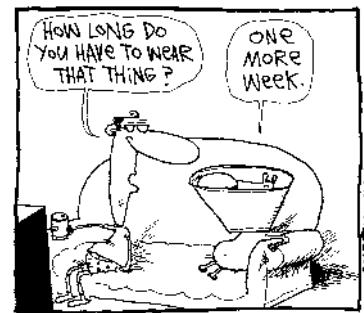


By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

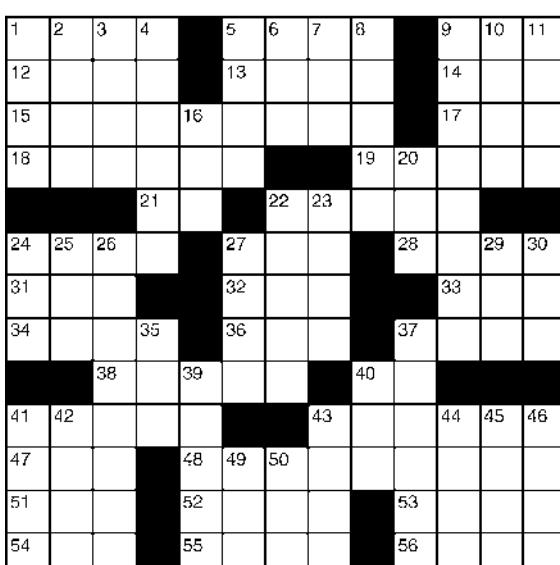


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Norton's	DOWN	23	Pre-swan
1	Family-biz abbr.	work-place	1	Super-market	24
5	Support	40 "I	2	Supply	Cable sta.
9	Storefront	under-stand"	25	Ah's mate	45 Ah's mate
12	Helper	41 Phantorn's	26	Saskatchewaun city	26 Saskatchewaun city
13	Trevi	bailiwick	27	Lapdog, for	27 Lapdog, for
	toss, once	43 Next-to-last	28	short	29 Historic time
14	Ump's call	planet	29	time	30 Firmament
15	All but one in a million?	47 Rule, in British India	30	"—	35 "—
17	Kyoto cummer-bund	48 Dime portrait	31	the	the ramparts ..."
18	Layers	51 Shape shifter?	32	ramparts	37 Boy
19	Stun gun	52 Greedy one's call	33	..."	39 Increases the temperature
21	Mother	53 Sea flier	40	Mined-over	40 Mined-over
22	Tremor	54 Wield a needle	41	matter	41 Spheres
24	Heavy reading	55 Kane's Rosebud	42	42 Rid of rind	42 Rid of rind
27	Boxer	56 Wander	43	43 Second-hand	43 Second-hand
28	Quite some time	Solution time: 25 mins.	44	44 Infamous lyrist	44 Infamous lyrist
31	Greet the villain	LOAF COW ISIS	45	45 Radius neighbor	45 Radius neighbor
32	Wet wiggler	IDLE HIE MONO	46	46 Stalk	46 Stalk
33	Mork's home planet	SOFTBALL IIFY	47	47 Lubricate	47 Lubricate
34	"Scat!"	TRACER LOTROS	48	48 Inseparable	48 Inseparable
36	Indispensable	HAW SHAW	49	49	50
37	Vacillate	S S KEY STAND	50	50	
		KNOB DAS ERTE			
		INFRA WOE ELY			
		TALL UMP			
		BUSTIY FIFSTA			
		ENOL SOFTSHOE			
		E AL OWL IAHQ			
		ROPE LEE OMEN			

Yesterday's answer 5-29



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Melanie Brown, 33; Melissa Etheridge, 47; Adrian Paul, 49; Annette Bening, 50

Happy Birthday: Don't let your own indecisiveness or someone else's uncertainty be your demise. You must pull things together regardless of the changes and challenges you face. Strength, not manipulation, will impress others. Stick to the rules and use your intelligence—you will leave a far greater impact on someone who will offer you something special in return. Your numbers are 5, 8, 21, 23, 34, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't expect things to run smoothly, especially where paperwork, institutions or government dealings are concerned. Someone will withhold information from you or intentionally lead you in the wrong direction. Take this as a sign not to partner with anyone. ☽☽

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An interesting encounter, a surprise or a sudden change that benefits you is apparent. Someone you don't expect will help you out. A meeting with someone from your past will help you see existing possibilities that can lead to a higher earning level. ☽☽

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be friendly, chatty and a little too forthright with the people you meet. Hold back or someone will take advantage of your openness. Empty promises can be expected if you decide to get involved with someone who isn't trustworthy. ☽☽

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Trust in your own judgment and take a lead position with business and partnerships. Set

the standard and draw up the rules and you will not only impress those you meet but gain trust and confidence as well. ☽☽☽

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel to an exotic destination. Your search for something unique will inspire and motivate you to change your lifestyle and your goals for the future. You will get the help you need if you pull in favors owed to you. ☽☽

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't give in to someone who wants you to put your money on the line. Protect your financial position and balance what you can offer by giving valuable solutions and a little hands-on help. You will turn a one-sided connection into a well-balanced friendship. ☽☽

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Speak up and don't take to heart a colleague or friend who puts you down or ruins your plans because of indecisiveness. You will do much better on your own. New friendships are apparent if you do things that interest or service your needs. ☽☽

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't trust anyone who tries to bully you into doing things differently or who gives you an ultimatum. An opportunity to take a trip will pay off in the new connections you make. A change in your position will occur. ☽☽

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get in the mood to initiate changes to your living arrangements. Doing so will make a difference to your emotional outlook and help you move on to a stable personal situation. It's a new day and a new beginning. ☽☽☽

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can stabilize your financial, emotional and physical outlook by making adjustments. If you sit still and wait, you will wish you hadn't and will possibly ruin a friendship that means a lot to you. Be confident. ☽

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Double check what's being offered by someone eager to get you involved in something new. Your ego will be hurt and your confidence deflated if you take what others say as gospel. Ask questions and pose suggestions. ☽

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Erratic behavior will lead to disastrous results. Wait and watch what everyone around you is doing before you make a move. Don't tell your secrets to anyone, even if you have no reason to expect disloyalty. ☽

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, ingenious and sensitive. You are passionate about everything you do. You are intuitive and communicate in a compelling fashion.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5	7							
	7	1	3	6	4			
4					5			
	1					9		
9		2		4				
5					6			
2	4	2	5	3	7			
1	4	2	5	3	9			
				1	9			

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	9	8	6	3	2	5	7
7	3	8	2	4	5	1	6	9
2	5	6	1	7	9	4	3	8
6	8	7	3	9	1	5	2	4
3	2	5	6	8	4	9	7	1
9	1	4	7	5	2	6	8	3
8	7	1	4	2	6	3	9	5
5	6	3	9	1	7	8	4	2
4	9	2	5	3	8	7	1	6

Difficulty Level ***

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BRAINWORK

L	N	H	X	E	L	P	M	O	C	A	W	S	L	H
E	L	O	E	E	P	O	N	S	M	A	E	I	E	R
E	S	U	I	M	T	T	B	N	V	S	M	A	I	C
F	Z	E	K	T	I	R	E	E	L	B	D	G	E	L
E	S	I	S	S	A	S	O	U	I	A	H	R	D	A
P	R	T	S	N	I	M	P	C	C	T	E	I	E	N
C	O	U	O	A	E	M	R	H	H	B	D	L	G	
U	E	W	T	R	I	S	E	O	L	L	A	I	I	
E	N	L	E	C	A	C	U	L	F	R	I	O	B	S
S	S	I	L	R	N	G	L	M	A	N	E	D	O	O
P	M	U	T	E	H	U	E	A	A	E	I	S	R	D
A	O	E	I	T	M	M	P	R	T	L	N	G	H	R
N	R	C	F	N	O	I	C	U						

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Classified Ads

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WANTED: 1 Chief Accountant

An 80-employee, multi million dollar wholesale/retail/ manufacturing company in Saipan, CNMI requires a Chief Accountant responsible for the oversight of all accounting functions, including inventory, invoicing and accounts receivable, fixed assets, accounts payable, payroll, and cost of production analysis. The successful applicant will also be responsible for the preparation of accurate monthly and annual financial reports. Position calls for extensive knowledge of computerized accounting software and functions. Ability to work as a team player in a fast paced atmosphere is required.

Qualifications

- CPA designation with a minimum of 5 years manufacturing accounting experience.
- Familiarity with Peachtree Premium accounting software.
- Demonstrated understanding of cost accounting principles.
- Demonstrated understanding of integrated perpetual inventory accounting concepts.
- Demonstrated understanding of computerized payroll accounting systems.
- Ability to prepare monthly work papers for the purpose of adjusting general ledger for accurate and timely financial statement preparation.
- Demonstrated understanding of MS Excel integrated modeling concepts for the preparation of trend and "what if" analyses.
- Staff management experience.

Deliverables

- Assume responsibility of accounting staff consisting of accounts receivable accountant, cost accountant, accounts payable, and inventory accountant, to ensure that work is performed in an accurate and timely manner.
- Assume responsibility for the biweekly processing of payroll.
- Maintain and amortize prepaid expenses.
- Supervise monthly physical inventory count and pricing, ensuring a proper cutoff.
- Prepare monthly work papers to show the correct month-end balances for assets and liabilities, the appropriate accruals and general journal entries.
- Assemble and organize the work papers for review by the Controller.
- Prepare monthly financial statements along with graphical representation of sales and analytical review commentary of significant changes in sales, cost of operations and expenses.

In order to demonstrate an understanding of the job requirements, applicant should submit, along with their resumes and references, a written narrative of their approach to the job and how they would meet the deliverables.

Salary commensurate with experience – applicants should indicate desired salary range. Résumé and related materials should be submitted in Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word format via email to: employment201@gmail.com.

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Saipan Tribune
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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007

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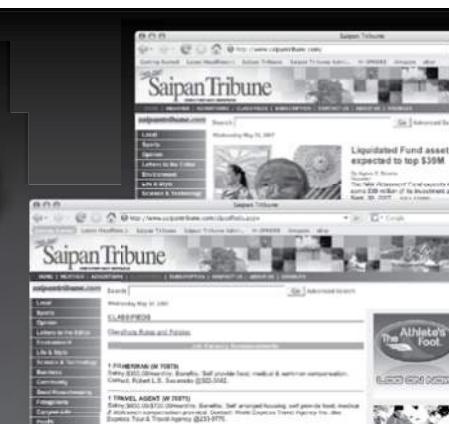
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID **IFB 08-031**

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Renovation of the Koblerville Elementary School Bilingual Classroom**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office, for a non-refundable fee of \$3.25, located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-031" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-031, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and one (1) copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P&S Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Request for Proposal **RFP 08-016**

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Janitorial Services for the PSS Head Start Program. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-016" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-016, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

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All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz
Acting P & S Officer

Bryant leads Lakers to 3-1 series edge over Spurs



SAN ANTONIO
(AP)—Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers are one win away from returning to the NBA finals. Bryant had 28 points and 10 rebounds and the Lakers beat the San Antonio Spurs 93-91 on Tuesday night to take a 3-1 lead in the Western Conference finals.

It was the Spurs' first home loss this postseason, and the defending champions face elimination when Game 5 is played in Los Angeles on Thursday.

Tim Duncan led the Spurs with 29 points and 17 rebounds. Reserve Brent Barry had 23 points and his last-second 3-point attempt could have given the Spurs the win. He claimed he was fouled on the play by Derek Fisher but there was no call.

"If I was the official I wouldn't have called that a foul," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

The Lakers led all game after opening a 22-8 lead. The Spurs got within 81-79 in the fourth quarter, but the Lakers scored seven straight points.

Lamar Odom scored 16 points for Los Angeles—eight in the fourth quarter.

"I told them at the end of the ballgame, their energy was terrific," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "Coming out and responding to a loss and getting a lead ... and playing with that kind of energy, I think, carried us over and we responded every time that they came in, tied



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) looks to shoot as San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan defends during the first half in Game 4 of the NBA Western Conference basketball finals, Tuesday, May 27, 2008 in San Antonio.

the ball game."

Tony Parker added 23 points for the Spurs.

"It was just a good defense and we missed a lot of easy shots," Parker said. "You know, myself, Timmy, we missed a lot of layups. It was just never—we never (were)

in a good rhythm."

The Spurs shot 40 percent (30-of-75) from the field and the Lakers shot nearly 45 percent (38-of-85).

With the Lakers up 93-86 and 50 seconds to play, Pau Gasol missed two free throws after being fouled by San Antonio's

Fabio Oberto.

Manu Ginobili, who had struggled all night, hit a 3-pointer to bring the Spurs within four. After a miss by Bryant, Parker scored on a fast break when Odom was called for goaltending, bringing the Spurs within 93-91 with 28 seconds to play.

Fisher missed a shot for Los Angeles but the ball went out of bounds and remained in the Lakers' possession with 2 seconds on the shot clock.

Bryant missed a jumper and the Spurs had 2.1 seconds left. When Barry's 3 missed, Bryant pumped his fists in the air

gave her friend a pep talk to that effect.

"I had a short chat with her," Kuznetsova recounted. "She said, 'Come on, maybe it can be your year.' Yeah, she cheered me up, so it's good. So I thank her for that."

Also moving on to the second round with victories Tuesday: No. 13 Dinara Safina, No. 14 Agnieszka Radwanska and No. 31 Ai Sugiyama.

Safina, the younger sister of two-time major champion Marat Safin, was the last woman to play—and to beat—Henin, doing that at the German Open.

"I hope that she just stays happy with this decision and she just goes forward in her life, what she's planning to do," Safina said. "Because ... I have one brother who also says sometimes that he wants to retire because he says that he has enough of it. But he still plays. But she's, I think, stronger. She said, 'OK, I retired.'"

Duncan's jumper tied the game at 45 with 2:10 left in the half. After Luke Walton missed a free throw and a chance for a three-point play with 23 seconds left, Vladimir Radmanovic chased down the ball and Bryant converted to give the Lakers a 53-47 halftime lead.

It was more of the same in the third. The Spurs tied it twice but never took a lead.

Tied at 67, Bryant found himself all alone. He took the long pass from Odom and dunked the ball with flash and flair, drawing resounding boos from the crowd. Another dunk by Bryant made it 73-70 before Vujacic was fouled hitting a 3-pointer from the corner. He made the free throw to give Los Angeles a 77-70 lead with one quarter to go.

and the Lakers were headed home with command of the series.

The Lakers were last in the finals in 2004 when they lost to Detroit in five games.

The Lakers were up 77-70 heading into the fourth quarter. Barry's 3 brought the Spurs within 77-75 and his running jumper got them to 79-77.

Odom's layup balanced on the rim before falling in, and he hit a free throw for the three-point play to start the 7-0 run. Bryant stole the ball for a slam to put the Lakers up 88-79 with 3:29 to play.

Parker got the Spurs within five, then Odom hit two free throws to put the Lakers back up by seven with just under a minute to play.

Los Angeles came out with energy and took advantage of

sloppy play by the Spurs to lead by as many as 14 points in the first quarter.

The Lakers dominated the offensive glass, racking up 20 second-chance points in the first half off their 17 offensive rebounds.

Odom, who was upset with his Game 3 performance, highlighted the Lakers' aggressiveness. Early in the first quarter he missed a shot, then suddenly appeared under the basket to grab the rebound and was fouled, making both free throws.

San Antonio was within 28-23 at the end of the opening period.

In the second quarter the Lakers got into foul trouble and San Antonio made the most of it at the free throw line. The Spurs were 17-of-17 in the first half as Odom, Fisher and reserves Jordan Farmar and Sasha Vujacic all picked up their third fouls.

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Rainshowers cuts short French Open play

Mauresmo, Kuznetsova win



PARIS(AP)—A photo of Maria Sharapova graced the cover of the French Open's official daily program Tuesday, which might be considered false advertising.

That's because the No. 1-ranked woman didn't play a single point, forced by the wet weather to wait instead until at least Day 4 of the tournament to begin her quest to complete a career Grand Slam.

Rafael Nadal played all of two games of his opening match before collecting his things and trundling off center court, the start of his bid for a fourth consecutive title at the clay-court major halted by one of a series of showers.

Only 13 of 72 scheduled matches were completed, and past major champions Amelie Mauresmo and Svetlana Kuznetsova were quite pleased to duck into the second round between drizzles.

Yes, Wimbledon has come to Roland Garros, with rain affecting action on all three

days so far and allowing for less than 3 hours of play Tuesday. While the All England Club is constructing a dome over Centre Court ahead of the 2009 championship, the French tennis federation has said it might build a retractable roof by 2012.

"We definitely would like to have that," said the 22nd-seeded Mauresmo, a Frenchwoman who overcame nine double-faults and 35 total unforced errors to beat Olga Savchuk 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

While it's too early in the tournament for too much concern about fitting everything in, players such as Sharapova or Nadal—whose match originally was on Monday's slate before being postponed the first time, and eventually will resume at 1-1 in the first set—already face the prospect of playing on consecutive days if they proceed through the draw.

Then again, Nadal played for seven days in a row last year at Wimbledon, where he reached the final before losing to No. 1 Roger Federer. So don't expect too much sympathy for the second-seeded Spaniard.

"For Nadal, doesn't matter,"

said No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko, who eliminated 2002 Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson 6-3, 6-3, 6-3. "He can play today, tomorrow, after tomorrow. ... It's no problem for him."

Not surprisingly, the only five men's matches that finished were straight-set affairs.

In addition to Davydenko—still at the center of the ATP's investigation into irregular betting patterns on a match he played in August 2007—and No. 9 Stanislas Wawrinka, winners included Mario Ancic and Robin Soderling.

"It's never easy, a whole day of rain," said Wawrinka, who defeated Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. "Most important is to remain calm, not to stress yourself uselessly, and to be patient."

Ancic—the last man to beat Federer at Wimbledon, all the way back in 2002—eliminated No. 31 Andreas Seppi, while Soderling defeated No. 13 Juan Monaco.

Five matches that were suspended in progress Monday and resumed Tuesday still weren't finished; they were supposed to continue Wednesday. That includes John Isner

of the United States against Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina in an encounter that's tied at 1 in the fifth set. Five other matches that began Monday didn't even pick up again Tuesday.

Kuznetsova, however, had more than enough time to dispatch 71st-ranked Aiko Nakamura 6-2, 6-3.

"It was just weird," said the No. 4-seeded Kuznetsova, the 2004 U.S. Open champion and twice a Grand Slam runner-up. "I was starting to imagine it was raining a little bit, and I was, like, 'Oh, I hope we can play.' ... And thinking about this, I realized I lost first game."

She was beaten in the finals of the 2006 French Open and 2007 U.S. Open by Justine Henin, who won seven Grand Slam titles before abruptly retiring this month at age 25. Her departure makes for a wide-open women's field in Paris.

"I think a really unpredictable tournament can happen," said Kuznetsova, just 2-16 against the Belgian over their careers.

Henin said on the eve of the tournament that she'd like to see Kuznetsova win and even

Santana snaps Mets out of doldrums, beats Florida



**N E W
Y O R K
(A P)—
J o h a n**

Santana snapped the New York Mets out of their recent doldrums, pitching seven effective innings to beat the feisty Florida Marlins 5-3 in the National League on Tuesday.

Fernando Tatis and Ramon Castro each hit a pair of two-out RBI singles for the Mets.

One day after embattled manager Willie Randolph kept his job—for now—following a much-publicized meeting with ownership, the Mets won for only the second time in nine games.

Santana (6-3) struck out seven and worked around eight hits, allowing three runs.

Florida starter Andrew Miller (4-4) lasted only 4 2-3 innings. Cody Ross homered and drove in two runs for the NL East-leading Marlins.

Reds 9, Pirates 6

At Cincinnati, Adam Dunn hit a three-run homer that set a club record for left-handed batters, and Jay Bruce went 3-for-3 in his eagerly awaited debut to lead Cincinnati.

Dunn's three-run shot in the fifth off Ian Snell (2-4) was his eighth in his last 12 games. With 252 career homers, he moved ahead of Ted Kluszewski—the bare-armed “Big Klu”—for most by a left-handed Reds hitter. Dunn later added a run-scoring single as the Reds pulled ahead 9-3.

Bruce, a 21-year-old outfielder who is the Reds' top prospect, had a pair of singles, a double, two walks, a stolen base and a pair of RBIs. He drew one standing ovation after another.

Reds rookie Johnny Cueto (3-5) lasted only five innings and was in line for a loss until Dunn connected.

Brewers 3, Braves 2

At Milwaukee, after grousing earlier in the day about being placed in a platoon situation at third base, Bill Hall scored the winning run in Milwaukee's victory.

Hall, who entered as a defensive replacement in the ninth, led off the bottom of the inning with a broken-bat bloop single off Atlanta reliever Jeff Bennett (0-3). Rickie Weeks sacrificed Hall to second, and Hall stole third on a 3-0 pitch to Mike Cameron. Cameron then lofted a fly ball to center, and Hall's slide narrowly beat the throw home.

Salomon Torres (4-1) earned the victory for Milwaukee.

Astros 8, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Shawn Chacon won his second straight start after nine no-decisions to open the year and Hunter Pence had a career-best five hits in Houston's victory.

Chacon (2-0) worked seven strong innings, helping the Astros win the opener of a nine-game trip.

Pence was 5-for-5 with four singles and a double, including an RBI infield hit in a four-run first off Braden Looper (6-4). Miguel Tejada hit a two-run homer, and Lance Berkman walked twice, singled and scored three times to give him a major league-best 56 runs.

Albert Pujols was 4-for-4 with his 12th homer for the Cardinals.

Pence was 5-for-5 with four singles and a double, including an RBI infield hit in a four-run first off Braden Looper (6-4). Miguel Tejada hit a two-run homer, and Lance Berkman walked twice, singled and scored three times to give him a major league-best 56 runs.

At Phoenix, Bengie Molina and Jose Castillo homered to help Tim Lincecum earn his seventh victory in the San Francisco Giants' win over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Lincecum (7-1), with a fast-

innings as the Rockies fell to 1-10 in his 11 starts.

**Giants 6,
Diamondbacks 3**
At Phoenix, Bengie Molina and Jose Castillo homered to help Tim Lincecum earn his seventh victory in the San Francisco Giants' win over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Lincecum (7-1), with a fast-

off a rare triple steal in an win over the Chicago White Sox.

Gutierrez hit a 2-1 pitch into the left-field bleachers off Mark Buehrle (2-6) for his first career grand slam. Gutierrez hit a three-run homer off Buehrle on opening day and is batting .417 (5-for-12) with two homers and seven RBIs in his career against the left-hander.

Buehrle allowed seven runs in

chael Cuddyer singled home Joe Mauer in the 12th inning, giving Minnesota a victory and sending the Kansas to its ninth straight defeat.

The Royals had tied it at 3 in the ninth on Mark Teahen's three-run, inside-the-park homer off Joe Nathan, who blew his first save in 14 opportunities.

Orioles 10, Yankees 9, 11 innings

At Baltimore, Aubrey Huff doubled in the in the tying run in the 11th inning and scored the game-winner on a long single by Alex Cintron, giving Baltimore a win over New York.

After New York took a 9-8 lead in the 11th against Matt Albers (3-1) on an RBI single by Hideki Matsui, Melvin Mora led off the bottom half with a single off LaTroy Hawkins (1-1). One out later, Huff doubled and took third as Mora beat the throw to the plate.

Hawkins then issued two straight intentional walks before Cintron hit a fly ball to right over the drawn-in outfield.

Mariners 4, Red Sox 3

At Seattle, Jose Lopez lined a single past diving third baseman Mike Lowell to score Vladimir Balentien with the game-winning run and Seattle beat Boston to end a season-high seven-game losing streak.

The Mariners overcame Manny Ramirez's 499th career home run.

The ninth inning began with a one-hopper by Balentien that went off the backhanded glove of Alex Cora for an infield single to deep shortstop. Miguel Cairo then sacrificed Balentien to second. Pinch-hitter Jeremy Reed sent Balentien to third base with a ground out and Mike Timlin (2-3) intentionally walked Ichiro Suzuki before Lopez lined a 1-2 pitch—and then got mobbed near second base by teammates who hadn't had something to celebrate for most of a dreadful May.

Clemens adds new claim to suit against McNamee

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Clemens added a new claim of “intentional infliction of emotional distress” on Tuesday to his defamation suit against Brian McNamee.

The seven-time Cy Young Award winner said McNamee, his former personal trainer, was “malicious and grossly negligent” when McNamee told baseball investigator George Mitchell last year that Clemens had used steroids and human growth hormone. Clemens also said McNamee defamed him when he repeated his accusations to SI.com.

“McNamee's false accusations have accomplished their purpose of destroying Clemens' good reputation and making him the subject of scorn and ridicule throughout Texas,” said the papers, submitted to the U.S. District Court in Houston.

hander pitched his second complete game of the season and third of his career, striking out seven and walking none.

Santana had lost his last two decisions after a 6-0 start. He had a 2.02 ERA while winning his first six decisions over seven starts, but had gone 0-2 with a 6.62 ERA in his last three starts before beating the Tigers.

Athletics 3, Blue Jays 1

At Oakland, California, Greg Smith ended a five-start winless stretch, Jack Hannahan had an RBI double and Bobby Crosby also drove in a run in Oakland's victory over Toronto.

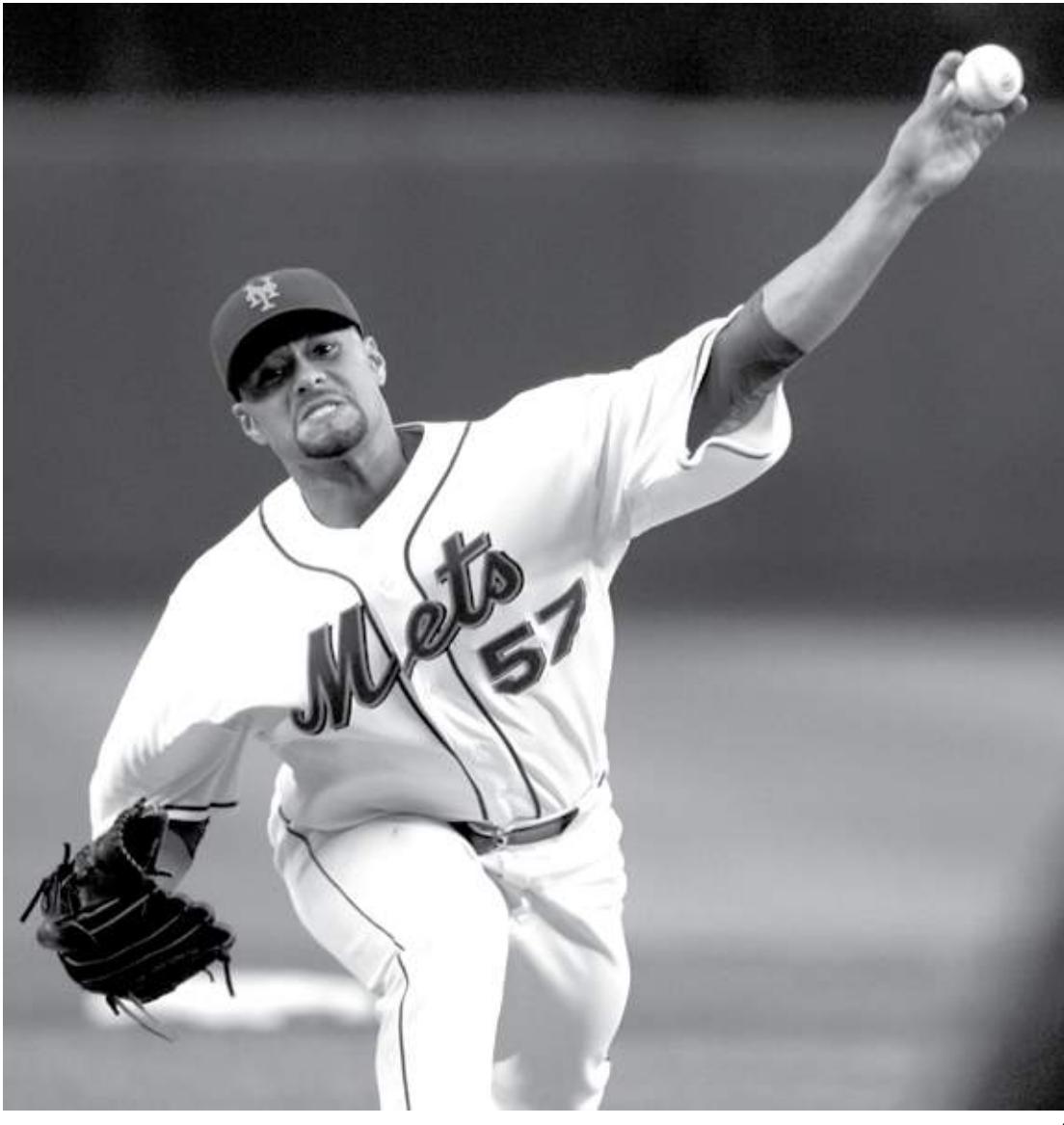
Thomas, released by the Blue Jays last month before he rejoined the A's, left the game in the fifth inning with a slight strain of his right quadriceps muscle.

Mariners 4, Red Sox 3

At Seattle, Jose Lopez lined a single past diving third baseman Mike Lowell to score Vladimir Balentien with the game-winning run and Seattle beat Boston to end a season-high seven-game losing streak.

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New York Mets' Johan Santana delivers a pitch in the second inning against the Florida Marlins in their baseball game at Shea Stadium in New York, Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

Cubs 3, Dodgers 1

At Chicago, Sean Gallagher had his best start, and Aramis Ramirez and Kosuke Fukudome capped a three-run seventh with run-scoring hits to lead Chicago.

Gallagher (2-1) allowed one run and four hits in a career-high seven innings.

Los Angeles got an RBI single from Blake DeWitt in the fourth, but the third baseman's error in the seventh allowed the tying run to score and helped turn what looked like a win for Hiroki Kuroda (2-4) into a loss.

Phillies 7, Rockies 4

At Philadelphia, Kyle Kendrick pitched effectively in a career-best 7 1-3 innings, and Greg Dobbs and Pedro Feliz both drove in two runs for Philadelphia.

The Phillies have 42 runs and 46 hits in their last three games, all wins.

Kendrick (4-2), using a sinking fastball to induce ground balls, allowed two runs and seven hits.

Ubaldo Jimenez (1-5) continued to struggle, giving up seven runs and 10 hits in four

ball that reached 98 mph on the Chase Field radar gun, allowed three runs on six hits in 7 1-3 innings. The 23-year-old right-hander struck out seven and walked three while improving to 3-0 in his last four starts.

Molina hit a three-run homer in the third, and Castillo a 422-foot (130-meter) solo shot in the fourth—both off Arizona starter Dan Haren (5-4).

Padres 4, Nationals 2

At San Diego, Adrian Gonzalez and Kevin Kouzmanoff homered on consecutive pitches with two outs in the seventh inning, and San Diego beat Washington in a matchup of last-place teams.

The worst team in the NL, the Padres (20-33) have won consecutive games for only the fourth time this season.

Gonzalez's opposite-field shot to left on an 0-1 pitch from Charlie Manning (0-1) was his 10th homer in May and his 15th overall.

Indians 8, White Sox 2

At Cleveland, Franklin Gutierrez hit a grand slam in the first inning and the Cleveland Indians pulled

five innings. He was pulled after consecutive doubles by Jhonny Peralta and Ryan Garko in a bizarre sixth inning that featured the official scorer crediting the Indians with a triple steal.

Rangers 12, Rays 6

At St. Petersburg, Florida, one-time Tampa Bay prospect Josh Hamilton hit a grand slam and matched his career high with five RBIs, helping Vicente Padilla and Texas cool off the AL East-leading Rays.

Padilla (7-2) allowed five runs and seven hits in six innings to win his fifth straight decision and stop Tampa Bay's four-game winning streak. He struck out a season-high 10.

Hamilton, the former No. 1 overall pick in the draft whose career with the Rays was derailed by drug addiction and injuries, had a RBI double off Andy Sonnanstine (6-3) in the first and added his second grand slam of the season in the eighth off J.P. Howell.

Twins 4, Royals 3, 12 innings

At Kansas City, Missouri, Mi-

Hustlers also claim Budweiser Cup crown

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



After dominating the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League, SaipanCell Krystal Hustlers added the SBA Budweiser Cup championship to this season's list of accolades after beating Godfather's Magas last Tuesday at Godfather's Bar.

Hustlers and Godfather's were the final two teams left out of the original 16 in the four-week mini tournament that spiced up the first half of the team billiards season.

The evening started fairly well for Hustlers as Ryan Sanciangco and Erwin Gomez gave them a 2-0 lead following wins over Keiji Takeda and Vidal Camacho.

Sanciangco split the first two games against Takeda before pulling through in the rubber to get Hustlers on the board. Gomez, meanwhile, had an easier time against Camacho, sweeping their matchup, 2-0.

Mike Sablan avenged the



Members of the SaipanCell Hustlers pose for a group photo before playing in one of their games in the Budweiser-SBA 8-Ball League at Godfather's Bar in Garapan. From left, Jerry Soriano, Senen Pangilinan, Robert Sanciangco, Joey Lucido, and Erwin Gomez. Not in photo is Rowell Mariano.

twin losses in the very next game, upsetting veteran cue artist Senen Pangilinan to trim their deficit to 1-2.

Jerry Soriano, however, made sure Hustlers rebounded nicely from its first loss of the finals, skunking Sam Babauta to give their team a commanding 3-1 lead in the race-to-four games finale.

Babauta and Camacho then teamed up to keep Godfather's upset hopes alive, scoring a 2-1 win over Rowell Mariano and Joey Lucido in the first of two doubles matches.

That was as far as Godfather's would go though, as Gomez and Pangilinan joined hands to secure the win and the coveted championships, beating Takeda

one month of free golf.

Kim and Park finished with a net score of 69.2 (68 gross and -1.2 handicap) as against Yong and Hyang's 69.8 (77 and 7.2). Byun Chul Jun and Byun Chung Suk settled for third place with their 70.2 (69 and -1.2). Second and third places took home \$250 and three weeks of free golf and \$200 and two weeks of free golf, respectively.

The low gross award went to Eun Joo Song and Chang Kyun Kim as the duo registered a best-

ball best pre-handicap score of 66. They were given \$250 and three weeks of free golf.

Aside from the golf tournament, the 2008 Family Fun Day event also included kite flying, nature ride and magic show, bazaar sale, and an early morning walkathon. Children also had a kick out of the fire truck from the Division of Fire that was present during the occasion.

The 2008 Family Fun Day was sponsored by Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Guang-

dong Hardware, Aqua Resort Club, SPE, Pacific Islands Club, Horizons, Inc., Moylan's Insurance, Pacific Insurance, Marianas Variety, NBK, ATOMS Co., Ltd., Saipan Ice, UMDA, IConnect, Saipan Sanko, Luen Fung Enterprises, Quality Water Inc., BEN's Trading, PACSPORTS, Ltd., Saipan Industrial Gas, Inc., D&Q, Tommy's Salon, Palms Resort Saipan, MISAMIS Construction, SandCastle, Wushin LP Gas, JC Mrktg., Elite Printing, MARPAC, and Nike Golf.

experienced by the islands.

"On behalf of the NMITA officers, I wish to thank Duty Free Shoppers, Ltd. for their unprecedented support to the 27th DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships. I am also equally grateful to Pacific Islands Club for the use of their courts and waterpark facility. And lastly, my heartfelt thanks to the many participants and volunteers who came from different directions to help make the championships a huge success," he said.

Fire, 0-1.

Jamie Beavis scored the lone goal of the game in the first half, helping Wild Fire secure the No. 3 seeding. Wild Bill's and Marianas Eye had four points each at the conclusion of the regular season, but the former won the tiebreak after prevailing in last Tuesday's match.

The playoffs will begin this Saturday with the top-ranked Smithereens facing Marianas Eye in the semis and PIC dueling Wild Bill's in the other semis pairing.

Winners of the semis matches will advance to the championship game which will be played on June 7. (RM)

WABOL

From Page 28

Senior par-buster Nick Sablan was the winner in the low gross category, beating everyone with a 77. The five-over-par score netted Sablan \$300 and three weeks of free golf.

In the two-man best-ball scramble category, Kim Chang Sik and Jun Park edged Yon Mi Ham and Hyun Jin Jun to claim the \$300 first place purse and

MAYUKO

From Page 28

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-organized event only has one championship left undecided as the finals of the men's 4.0 between Gabriel Boyer and his nephew James Camacho has been plagued by rain delay.

Like the women's open finale, the Boyer-Camacho matchup began last Monday. It was supposed to be played Tuesday

night but finally got started only last night.

When both Boyer and Camacho agreed to postpone the match, Boyer was in full control, winning the first set 6-4 and leading in the second, 2-1.

Ji Hoon Heo won the men's open title without even lifting his racquet as his finals opponent, Jeff Race, was too sick to play Monday.

Lope Padilla (men's 4.5), Dodong Salinas (men's 3.0), J.W. Jang (men's 40-and-

over), Dinalet Jones (women's 3.0/2.0), Heo and Cody Race (boys' 16-and-under), Clay McCullough-Stearns (boys' 12-and-under), and Mikyla Lopez and Kris Obaldo (girls' 12-and-under) won their respective divisions last Sunday.

NMITA president Eli Buenaventura, meanwhile, thanked the main sponsor of the 2008 DFS Micronesian Championships for making the tournament possible again this year, despite the tough economic times currently being

tied the game.

Roberts scored the first goal of the game on a Becca Newman cross. Linden made the second goal in the final minute of the first half on another beautiful cross from Tenorio.

In the second half, PIC took the lead when Meaghan Hassel-Shearer set up Seckler for the third goal of the game.

But PIC failed to seal the win when Jewell, after several attempts to attack the Paradise In Cleats' defense, finally slipped past her defenders for the game-tying goal.

Marianas Eye played in the last game of the regular season last Tuesday and lost to Wild

"It was an awesome play. Talk about teamwork," Gabaldon said.

Two days after escaping Wild Fire, the Smithereens returned to the field and recorded back-to-back wins after shutting out PIC's Paradise In Cleats, 2-0.

Gabaldon praised goalkeepers Jolene Dykstra and Maria Ornes for preventing PIC from scoring.

The Brenda Schultz and Divya Sharma-led Paradise In Cleats finished the last two games of the regular season with a 0-1 loss-draw record. It

played the Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues last Saturday and forced a 2-2 draw.

PIC ended the regular season in second place with six points, making Schultz proud of her team-mates' consistent performance.

"I felt that Chantelle Voutilainen, Kathy Pagapular, Don Decha, and Michi Tenorio had a great game. They were doing headers, getting to the ball first, passing, and really showing improving skills on the field," Schultz said.

In the PIC-Marianas Eye tiff, Jenny Linen and Nicolle Seckler scored a goal apiece for the former. Young strikers Amber Roberts and Zoe Jewell's one goal each for Marianas Eye

Caguioa's 39 lifts Barangay Ginebra past Air21 on the road

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines—By a whisker, Mark Caguioa narrowly missed a nice little spice to his career. But he's not complaining.

Especially after Barangay Ginebra held off tenacious Air21, 97-92, Saturday in a Smart PBA Fiesta Conference road game at the jampacked Zamboanga City Coliseum here.

Caguioa registered a personal conference-high 39 points and the Kings also drew clutch baskets from Junthy Valenzuela and Billy Mamaril down the tense dying seconds to pull off the much-needed win.

Consecutive follow-ups by Valenzuela and Mamaril enabled Ginebra to pad a precarious 91-90 lead, turning Air21's otherwise sterling efforts for naught when it couldn't make the baskets that were needed the most.

The win, coming on the heels of a much easier 105-70 rout of Welcoat last Sunday, pushed the Kings' win-loss record to 3-7, half a game ahead of the Dragons out of the cellar. It was the first time the

crowd-favorites won consecutive games in the conference.

"It is always hard to play Air 21, but I'm glad our defense came through in the end," said Ginebra head coach Jong Uichico. "We wanted to hold them below 100 points and that's exactly what we achieved."

Caguioa's scorching scoring also proved to be a major factor, although it fell just a point short of being his fifth 40-plus game that would have tied the season-high set by Sta. Lucia Realty's Nelbert Omol in the last Philippine Cup last Jan. 13 when the Realtors defeated curiously also the Express 123-106.

Barangay Ginebra 97 — Caguioa 39, Tubid 16, Alexander 13, Helterbrand 10, Valenzuela 9, Mamaril 5, Crisano 3, Artadi 2, Menk 0, Escalona 0.

Air21 92 — Thomas 28, Arboleda 16, Santos 13, David 12, Canaleta 8, Cruz 5, De Ocampo 4, Sotto 3, Billones 3, Se 0, Kramer 0.

Quarterscores: 26-24, 49-43, 74-73, 97-92. (www.pba.com.ph)

PATRIOTS

From Page 28

Rabauliman, Jared Sablan, Alan Aguon, Raymond Tenorio, Jonathan Cabrera, Joe Lizama, Brett Halstead, Brandon Phillip, Jaime Manglona, and Richard Borda.

"It has been a great three years for us and I am so proud of all that you accomplished," added Mizer.

Last year, the Patriots repeated as champions after a 20-1 drubbing of the Hustlers in the finals. The win capped an 18-0 season, including 15-0 in the regular season.

The year before, the Patriots won the Major League title following an 11-7 win over the Tanapag Braves. The team went 21-0 in 2006, including 18-0 in the regular season.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	31	21	.596	—
Boston	32	23	.582	1/2
Toronto	28	26	.519	4
Baltimore	26	25	.510	4 1/2
New York	25	27	.481	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	28	23	.549	—
Minnesota	26	25	.510	2
Cleveland	24	28	.462	4 1/2
Detroit	21	31	.404	7 1/2
Kansas City	21	31	.404	7 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	32	22	.593	—
Oakland	29	23	.558	2
Texas	27	27	.500	5
Seattle	19	34	.358	12 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	30	21	.588	—
Philadelphia	30	24	.556	1 1/2
Atlanta	28	24	.538	2 1/2
New York	24	26	.480	5 1/2
Washington	22	31	.415	9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
The men's masters Top 5 of the 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament poses with May Masters men's champion Richard Leong and his daughters Iris and Ivy. From left, Raymond Zapanta, Simon Manacop, Leong, Dannie Robles, Ronald Epan, and Paul Pangelinan.



MARK RABAGO
The men's masters Top 5 with May Masters men's champion Richard Leong and her two lovely daughters, Iris and Ivy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The women's team champions of the 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament poses with Saipan Bowling Association vice president Ador Dimaano. From left, Dimaano, May Masters women's champion Ron Cal, Gigi Zapanta, Gina Sablan, and Gloria Omechalang.



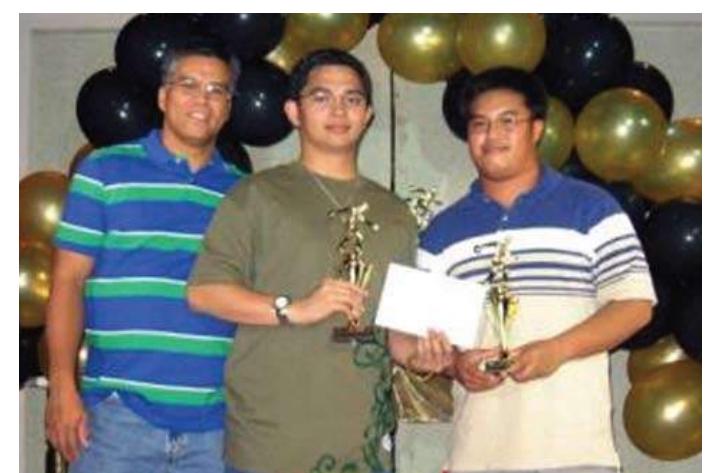
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The women's masters Top 5 of the 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament. From left, Diane Camacho, Yho Villavicencio, Ron Cal, Gina Sablan, and Elena Sol.



MARK RABAGO
The women's team champions are all smiles after receiving their trophies.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The men's team champions of the 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament pose with their trophies during last Sunday's awards banquet at Club V of Saipan World Resort. From left, Richard Leong, Simon Manacop, Kitz Barja, and Raymond Zapanta.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The men's doubles champion of the 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament Raymond Zapanta, center, and Raymond Angeles, right, join Saipan Bowling Association vice president Ador Dimaano.



MARK RABAGO
May Masters men's champion Richard Leong poses with women's champion Ron Cal during the awards ceremony of the 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament held last Sunday at Club V of the Saipan Grand Hotel.



MARK RABAGO
The women's masters Top 5 show off their hardware.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Women's doubles champion Elena Sol, middle, and Yho Villavicencio poses with Saipan Bowling Association vice president Ador Dimaano.



Hustlers also claim Budweiser Cup crown

After dominating the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League, SaipanCell Krytal Hustlers added the SBA Budweiser Cup championship to this season's list of accolades after beating Godfather's Magas. **26**

Saipan Tribune

Sports

Bryant leads Lakers to 3-1 series edge over Spurs

Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers are one win away from returning to the NBA finals. Bryant had 28 points and 10 rebounds and the Lakers beat the San Antonio Spurs 93-91 on Tuesday night.



24

28 THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Patriots cement Major League legacy

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

There's now no denying that SaipanCell Patriots are now part of Little League lore after capturing a third straight Major League title last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Field in Oleai.

Manager Thelma Mizer and her 12-man dynamite crew capped a one-loss season with a 15-0 demolition of the Dragons last weekend.

So overpowering were the SaipanCell Communications-backed squad that it was all over but the shouting in the fourth inning, after the championship massacre was forgivingly called off in the Patriots' favor via the 10-run mercy rule.

Patriots pelted the visibly overmatched Dragons defense right from the get-go, scoring four runs in the first inning, including a two-run homer by starting pitcher Jeremy Rabauman.

After the Dragons momentarily silenced them with a quick second inning, the Patriots' bats came alive big time in the third,

breaking the championship game wide open with an 11-run inning that, for all intents and purposes, snuffed the life out of the Dragons and added the 2008 Major League title to the championships Mizer already won in 2006 and 2007.

Rabauman went on to register 10 strikeouts in a pitching performance for the ages, while every Patriots batter had more than two hits and scored at least a run in the one-sided finals.

The *Saipan Tribune* contacted Mizer and asked her about the Patriots' dominance in the division and the secret of her program's continued success.

"The secret to our team's success over the years has been a lot of hard work and discipline. I am very proud of our team and the dedication that they have shown to the sport of baseball and the love of the game. The boys worked very hard to get to where they are at and they deserve recognition for their efforts. My message to the members of my team, past and present, would be to 'Shoot high and stand tall.' You have

See PATRIOTS on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SaipanCell Patriots are all smiles after capturing their third straight Major League championship last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Field in Oleai.

Mayuko outlasts Vivien in women's finals

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mayuko Arriola defeated Vivien Lee in the women's finals open of the 2008 DFS Micronesian Championships last Tuesday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan tennis courts.

Arriola and Lee actually faced off late afternoon on Memorial Day Monday at the Pacific



MARK RABAGO
Mayuko Arriola waits for a Vivien Lee serve in the women's finals open of the 2008 DFS Micronesian Championships last Monday at Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Islands Club tennis courts, but rain showers postponed their match. When the heavens opened up, both junior nettters had won a set apiece.

Relying on her powerful forehand and deep ground strokes, Arriola edged Lee in the first set, 6-4. Lee, however, returned the favor in the second, using her speed and adept shot-making to force a third and deciding set, 6-3.

When the women's championship resumed a day later and a few kilometers up north at the Garapan landmark, Arriola and Lee continued their fierce battle.

In the end, however, Arriola's power proved too much for the versatile Lee to overcome as Arriola took the championship by winning the third set, 6-3.

See MAYUKO on Page 26

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

 Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol won the Family Fun Day Golf Tournament hosted by Laolao Bay Golf Resort last Saturday.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal finished with a net score of 71.4 to nip good friend Manny Alvarez in the individual category of the competition, which is part of the Kagman golf resort's annual Family Fun Day celebration meant to open the sprawling property to the local community.

Wabol fired a gross score of

81, which minus his double Peoria assigned 9.6 handicap, gave him the score to beat. Alvarez, meanwhile, finished with a net score of 72 built around a gross of 84 and a handicap of 12.

Fr. Manny Corcera wound up in third place despite matching Wabol's 81 gross. He, however, was assigned a lower handicap of 7.2 that gave him a net of 73.8.

The championship was worth \$400 and a month's worth of free golf at Laolao for Wabol, who is currently in the Philippines competing in one of the local tournaments there. Alvarez collected \$300 and three weeks of free golf, while Fr. Manny received \$200 and two weeks of free golf.

See WABOL on Page 26

Smithereens take top seed in 2008 women's playoffs



The Matt Smith's Smithereens swept their last two games in the regular season of the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League to gain the top seeding in the playoffs.

The Smithereens finished the league with 11 points following their victory over Wild Bill's Wild Fire and PIC's Paradise In Cleats.

The Nikki Gabaldon and Katie Peters-captained Smithereens met Wild Fire last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field and eked out a 1-0 victory.

Three players teamed up for the game-winning goal for the Smithereens in the first half with Madison Smith passing the ball to Brianna Martin, who kicked the ball toward Nikki Gabaldon for the lone goal of the match.

See SMITHEREENS on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Matt Smith's Smithereens and Wild Bill's Wild Fire players in action during last Saturday's 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League at the CPA Airport Field.